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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
When will the Legislature finally pass FY2011 budget?

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INSIDE

Heightened Awareness

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said the CNMI has "really heightened" domestic violence awareness in the community over the last few years

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Jail Bird

A 31-year-old woman who posed as a teenage boy was sentenced to six months in jail.

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Secret Retreat

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Justice Dept. sues Guam, election officials. PAGE 16

$300K desk audit: DPS, DCCA overstaffed

» Findings include unnecessary positions, high overtime costs, overlapping functions
» But Fitial administration says recommendations are not binding decision at this time

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A $300,000 independent desk audit reveals that certain divisions at the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs are overstaffed, incur lots of overtime costs, have overlapping and duplicative functions, and have positions that are unjustifiable such as a deputy secretary, a special advisor, or a media specialist, among other findings.

See $300K on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rita Castro, a government employee not being able to report to work since the partial government shutdown on Oct. 1, sticks a placard to the glass window for senators to see during the Senate's emergency session on Wednesday night. The House of Representatives has yet to act on the latest budget bill that the Senate amended.

Froilan wants House session today or tomorrow to act on budget bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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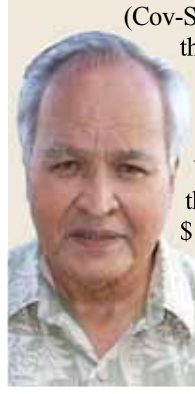
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that a House session should be held either today or tomorrow, and not Tuesday or Wednesday, hoping that the impasse on the $132 million budget bill will be resolved and the partial government shutdown lifted.



Days since government shutdown
8

Today marks the eighth day of the partial CNMI government shutdown because of a lack of a balanced budget passed and signed into law by the Sept. 30 deadline.

As a result, over 1,000 government employees have been unable to report to work until the House and Senate resolve their differences on the budget bill.

The House's fourth and latest budget bill, House Bill 17-122, House Draft 2, passed the Senate with amendments including work hour cuts, on Wednesday night.

It is again up to the House to accept or reject the Senate-amended budget bill.

But the House leadership did not call for a session yesterday to act on the spending bill.

This drew criticism from the House minority members and the Senate who reiterated that the House seems to take the budget lightly while government employees now have difficulty feeding their families and paying their bills.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) separately said "it is difficult to

See FROILAN on Page 4

One defendant in Kagman rape pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Angel Jess Santos, one of the four persons being charged over the rape of a 16-year-old Kagman student, entered a guilty plea yesterday.

The 21-year-old Santos and his court-appointed counsel, Joseph James Norita Camacho, signed a plea agreement with the government.

Assistant Attorney General Brian Gallagher represented the government in the case.

Santos pleaded guilty to the charge of

See RAPE on Page 4

Local

Search panel endorses two for NMC president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents presidential search committee endorsed two candidates during its meeting yesterday.

Ed Camacho, chairman of the search panel, personally handed to the board's chairperson and interim president a sealed envelop bearing the necessary documents and records of the top two candidates.

Camacho, along with members of the group, disclosed that the two individuals scored the highest points among the Top 4 candidates whom they interviewed last week. There were 12 applications received by the panel for the NMC president post.

Camacho admitted that due to circumstances beyond the panel's control, the committee did not conduct a final background check on the two candidates and transferred the responsibility to the Board of Regents.

The panel recommended the hiring of a company that would conduct the background check on the two final contenders with the firm chosen expected to report directly to the Board of Regents.

Camacho described the panel's search process as "not an easy job."

He said members of the committee were satisfied with the selection process and its unanimous decision to select the final two candidates was based on objective and comprehensive selection method.

Though the committee chair terminated its search task, Camacho said the members are still willing to meet with the board to provide further information if needed.

Acting Board of Regents' chair Maria Paz Younis, along with the members, lauded the "good job" performed by the search committee members who served as volunteers.

During yesterday's deliberation, the board did not open the "sealed documents" and voted to discuss the matter in executive session.

Regent Andrew Orsini, before the executive session was called, admitted that he has a list of questions regarding the search but he reserved it for the closed-door session with members. The board then called for a recess of the meeting after their executive session yesterday.

NMC for the past 10 years has employed seven presidents. Dr. Carmen Fernandez was the latest to lead the institution but was terminated on April 12 due to violations of the college and board policy. Fernandez has a pending lawsuit against NMC and four members of the board namely Janet King, Younis, Orsini, and Frank Rabauliman.

'$2M from settlement should be used to complete dialysis center, help NMHC'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) wants the $2 million settlement money that the CNMI government received from the Texas-based designer of the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis center to be used to complete the center's construction and also help the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Yumul, in his pre-filed House Bill 17-117, proposes to appropriate $1 million each to CHC and NMHC.

He said $1 million is "needed to complete the construction of the dialysis center and ensure it is fit for its purpose and can begin operations."

Yumul also said that NMHC needs $1 million in order for it to meet its guarantor obligation in home loans provided to low-income and moderate-income borrowers that are now facing foreclosures.

The lawmaker said NMHC also needs this monetary relief to continue to be a conduit for loan programs such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development 502 program.

"This relief, totaling $1 million, will be provided NMHC, allowing the corporation ample time to

See $2M on Next Page

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Congressman Kilili
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Medical referral patients in Hawaii plead not to cut services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A signature petition asking the Department of Public Health to defer any reduction in the services offered by Hawaii's medical referral program was submitted to Health Secretary Joseph Villagomez by affected patients and staffers.

The two-page document signed also by medical referral patients' escorts from the CNMI pleaded to the health chief to also abort any plan to cut work hours of staffers.

The petition stated that the planned reduction in hours and services could lead to "disaster" and could possibly lead to litigation in the future.

"The present operation is working efficiently, that we are fully satisfied. We see no need of any changes in its operation and staffing. These people are doing good. We need to recognize their services and instead look into providing them housing allowances as Hawaii is one of the most expensive places to live compared to Guam," the petition stated, indicating that staffers are barely surviving with their present salaries after paying their monthly rentals.

Instead of cutting staff work hours and reduce the program's services, the patients and their escorts recommended ways to generate savings for the medical referral program in Hawaii.

They suggested the transfer of the referral office to the ground floor of Hawaii's Pagoda Hotel because this would provide convenience and faster services to patients' needs.

"Since the CNMI government has been dealing with Pagoda Hotel for years with huge money payments, it would be nice to explore the possibility for any of the staff to stay at the hotel on a long-term lease, for emergency and convenience on behalf of the patients," the petition added.

The undersigned also urged the public health chief to review the budget for the program and include housing allowances to staffers.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach Villagomez yesterday but he's not answering his phone.

The health department spent $16.3 million in referring medical cases to various medical facilities outside the Commonwealth in the last four fiscal years, ending in FY 2009.

In fiscal year 2009, it recorded the highest expenditure of $7.4 million for the 907 patients it referred to other hospitals. This figure translates to over 50 percent increase from FY 2008's expenses of $4.4 million for 716 cases.

From the overall $16.3 million expenditure, DPH spent $5.5 million for medical claims and $4.7 million for patient's transportation.

The medical referral services is just among the important divisions of the Commonwealth Health Center which is now in state of emergency.

$2M

From Page 2

secure more long-term solutions such as a loan package with the Marianas Public Land Trust or other entities," HB 17-117 says.

Texas-based Leo A. Daly Co., which designed CHC's dialysis center, settled the CNMI government's $10-million lawsuit for $2 million, with no admission of liability on its side.

Of the $2 million, $318,000 is stipulated to be for design changes, while the balance represents alleged general loss of use damages to the CNMI.

The CNMI and Leo A. Daly Co. agreed that the settlement shall never be treated as an admission of liability of any settling party.

The CNMI government, through former Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory, filed a lawsuit against Leo A. Daly Co. in 2009 over the alleged defective building plan of the dialysis center.

The dialysis center project started out as a $5 million undertaking during the Juan N. Babauta administration. It ballooned into a $22-million project in the course of its five-year construction.

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Pell Grant awards help Guam students attend post-secondary institutions

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced that the House Committee on Education and Labor chaired by Congressman George Miller of California has compiled official statistics from the U.S. Department of Education for federal Pell Grant awards on Guam for academic year 2008-2009 as well as preliminary amounts for academic year 2009-2010.

In academic year 2008-2009, Guam was awarded a total of $8,864,535 in Federal Pell Grant funds, which were distributed to 2,975 Pell Grant recipients from Guam. Preliminary amounts for academic year 2009-2010 indicate an increase in Federal Pell Grant awards to $13,105,223, which were distributed to 3,634 recipients on Guam.

Throughout the nation, approximately eight million students rely on Pell Grant awards each year to help pay for college. Since 2007, under the Democratic-led Congress, the maximum Pell Grant scholarship for students has increased to $5,550 and will increase further starting in 2013 when the scholarship is linked to the Consumer Price Index. The Pell Grant program provides needs-based grants to students to encourage access to post-secondary education.

"The Pell Grant awards program has allowed thousands of students from Guam to attend post-secondary institutions," Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo said. "This Congress has worked to increase the maximum Pell Grant award in order to expand access to higher education for more students across the country given the significant increases in higher education costs. I encourage all current and prospective college students on Guam to strive for degrees in higher education and to take advantage of federal assistance when applicable." ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Domie Tebuteb who is celebrating her special day today. God bless you, bon voyage, and we love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Grandpa Tico and many more to come! We love you.

$300K

From Page 1

The Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. released this week the results of its desk audit, a summary of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

This desk audit is the first of its kind in decades in the CNMI.

Due to funding limitations, the independent desk audit initially covers only DPS and DCCA.

At DPS, for example, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles is "overstaffed based on the available workload data," the report said.

At DCCA, the workload of the deputy secretary "does not justify this position" and that the special advisor position "is not fully utilized, not needed, and there is real confusion concerning reporting structure/chain of command."

'Not binding'

MAI has a long list of recommendations to improve the efficiency, delivery of services, meet all local and federal laws and regulations, and produce cost savings at DPS and DCCA.

The recommendations include simple things like updating the DPS and DCCA websites, for DPS to stop tasking the Fire Division to deliver potable water or for DCCA to limit the use of government takehome vehicles.

But press secretary Angel Demapan separately said the "recommendations of the audit review team are not binding decisions at this time."

"The administration is conducting a thorough review of the findings and recommendations contained in the full report. The administration is not required to adopt any or all the recommendations. These are policy decisions that will be made in accordance with the best interests of the Commonwealth," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Other recommendations include a DPS reevaluation of the assignment and use of middle-management leaders in the grades of lieutenant, captain, and major, implementing a top down driven overtime policy, and a review of DPS workforce requirements based on current Office of Personnel Management policies and CNMI law.

'Top heavy'

At DPS, the Office of the Commissioner is "top heavy with a span of control that is cumbersome and difficult to coordinate."

DPS' Police Division is "overstaffed and fragmented with the Criminal Investigations Bureau functioning as a separate and equal division with the Police Division."

The Patrol and Traffic Sections within the Police Division "have overlapping and similar duties and responsibilities."

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is also "overstaffed based on the available workload data."

The Fire Division is staffed and equipped to meet the minimal standards of the National Fire Protection Association 1710 expectations.

"Career progression within DPS is stagnated, thus contributing to employee discontent and declining morale," the report said.

MAI's review covers DPS' Office of the Commissioner, Fire Division, Police Division, BMV, and Criminal Investigations Bureau. The review centers only on DPS staff and services performed on Saipan. It does not address operations on Rota or Tinian.

'Services to the poor'

MAI recommends renaming DCCA the Department of Human Services so that it becomes focused on its mission of providing services to the poor.

It said DCCA's other divisions—including the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission, the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, and the Historic Preservation Office—should be moved under the Office of the Resident Director for Indigenous Affairs.

This would create a department that preserves history, culture and festivals.

MAI also recommended that the Office of Carolinian Office Affairs to move under the Indigenous Affairs Office.

MAI also recommended moving DCCA's Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACh) and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to the Department of Public Works' Energy Office "where services can be leveraged with other energy programs in the CNMI."

The consultant also recommends moving DCCA's Juvenile Detention Facility to the Department of Corrections, and move DCCA's Juvenile Probation Unit under the Superior Court.

It also recommends moving the DCCA Sports and Recreation functions to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

'Overtime pay, out of compliance'

MAI said during its course of review, DCCA was cited in a U.S. Department of the Interior Inspector General report as being out of compliance with some grant funding requirements.

Over 60-percent of DCCA employees and services are federally funded.

"Should that funding stream be lost of suspended, the Department would be in serious trouble to pay for those employees and those services," MAI said.

Of 228 DCCA employees, 130 are federal funded and the total federal funds received is over $18 million, while 82 are locally funded worth over $2.2 million.

At DCCA, personnel costs are by far the biggest expense for its locally funded positions.

Seven percent of personnel costs are from overtime, most of them incurred in the Juvenile Detention Facility "and that is due to them not maintaining proper staffing levels."

MAI said it has over 30 recommendations for DCCA and if they are implemented, the projected annual personnel cost savings could be $473,500.09, or 19.3-percent of current personnel costs.

At DPS, personnel costs are also by far its greatest expense.

Fifteen percent of personnel costs are generated by established overtime.

The majority of the DPS overtime costs for Fiscal Year 2010 are at the Fire Division, 26 percent, and Police Division, 48 percent.

"Overtime is the largest premium pay component at $1.3 million, or 15-percent of the total gross salary costs incurred annually by DPS," MAI said.

It said one of the quickest methods to effectively reduce costs is to reduce overtime costs, although some overtime costs will naturally be incurred when unplanned emergency situations occur.

"The generally acceptable planning percentage for overtime costs for DPS support and services is approximately 6-percent of the total personnel costs," it added.

The Fitial administration used a U.S. Department of the Interior technical assistance grant to pay for the desk audit contractor.

The last time that a government-wide desk audit was made was in the early '90s. This resulted in the enactment of Public Law 7-31 or the Commonwealth Compensation Adjustment and Salary Act of 1991, implementing across-the-board salary adjustments for government workers.

FROILAN

From Page 1

comprehend what the House is thinking when people are screaming and fed up with the lack of a budget bill passed" seven days into the shutdown yesterday, and yet there's no immediate call for a House session.

"They are taking a laid-back approach… I understand they might call for a session on Tuesday. Monday is a holiday. I hope that's not the case and they hold a session a least on Friday (today)," he said.

Tenorio said a House leadership meeting is set for this morning.

"I am going in that meeting with the idea of having a session Friday or Saturday. There's no way I can wait until Tuesday or Wednesday… If there's a plan to hold a session next week, that directive is not from me. It may have come from the governor," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Meeting with governor

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and other members of the House leadership again met with the governor yesterday.

Tenorio, who did not attend the meeting, said it would be useless to have a House leadership meeting with the governor because they both agree to a 16-hour cut per pay period, only to be defeated time and again by the Senate.

The speaker recommends the governor to meet with Manglona instead, because it is the Senate that has yet to agree to a 16-hour cut to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2011.

Manglona said Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) met with Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos on Sunday on the budget. On Monday night, senators and House members also met with him.

"We almost struck a deal on Monday night. But then again, the House has not passed any revenue-generating bill so that we don't have to cut the salary of our people by 16 hours per pay period," he said.

The House is firm on a 16-hour cut per pay period plus 13 unpaid holidays. The Senate, for its part, has agreed to a 12-hour cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays. The Senate's previous proposal was for an eight-hour cut per pay period and seven unpaid holidays and prior to that, zero unpaid holidays.

Tenorio also said the Fitial administration has to review its projected revenue for FY 2011 of $132 million, because this was projected months ago and a lot of major businesses have closed since then and additional expenses such as retirement contributions that were not factored into it.

RAPE

From Page 1

conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday accepted the defendant's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

The remaining charges—kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, sexual assault (first degree), aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace—were dismissed as part of the agreement.

Wiseman will hold the sentencing a week after the trial, if there is any, of Santos' co-defendants Alfred P. Hocog, Joseph C. Camacho Jr., and Ivan Jones Castro.

As part of the plea agreement, Santos would testify for the government in the trial of co-defendants.

Under the plea agreement, the jail term to be imposed on Santos is not less than 10 years, but not more than 20 years.

Wiseman ordered Santos to perform 200 hours of community work service and pay a $100 fine and a probation fee.

Atty. Joseph Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that he discussed with his client their options based on the evidence and witnesses' statements.

"Our best option is to enter a guilty plea and become a government witness," Camacho said.

As a former police officer, former prosecutor, and now a defense counsel, Camacho noted that this is a very serious case and that after weighing the evidence, their best option is pleading guilty.

The lawyer said for rape (sexual assault in the first degree), the maximum sentence is 30 years in prison, while the maximum sentence for kidnapping with injuries is life imprisonment.

Police first arrested Santos on June 18. He has reportedly confessed to being one three persons who kidnapped the victim and that he only served as a lookout when one of them raped the student at Tank Beach on June 16.

Police said it was Hocog who first beat up the victim and raped her.

Police said the victim was walking toward Kagman High School when one suspect blocked her path. One grabbed her and beat her up repeatedly.

When the victim regained consciousness, she was outside an abandoned building several meters away where she was attacked.

Saipan son is top doctor in Los Angeles

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A physician whose parents hail from the Northern Marianas was recently named as the top doctor in Los Angeles for 2011.

Dr. Michael Pangelinan was chosen to receive the "2011 Los Angeles Top Doctors & Dentists Award" for his achievement in the medical field. He was also invited to participate in the filming of the Top Doc Los Angeles television commercial segment, airing on Fox Los Angeles.

Pangelinan is the son of Edward and Dulce Pangelinan of Saipan.

In a letter to Pangelinan, television show interview coordinator Michelle Bailey said Top Doc Los Angeles will be introducing the winners to Los Angeles residents on its Top Doc commercial segment called "Meet the 2011 Los Angeles Top Doctors & Dentists" airing every Friday during the Doctor OZ Show.

"The concept of the promotion is to introduce the Top Doctors & Dentists to the community, which will make it easier for Los Angeles residents to select the right healthcare professional," Bailey told Pangelinan, adding that the award will generate new patient requests and they are only choosing a limited number of doctors and dentists in each country and community area to receive the award.

Saipan Tribune learned that Pangelinan has been chosen by his peers and through his popular ranking by patients on review websites. The Top Doc Angeles also conducted personal interviews to ensure the quality of every winner.

In an email interview with Pangelinan yesterday, he said he was surprised of his newfound fame and recognition.

Pangelinan

"I was greatly surprised, honored, and thrilled that my patients would nominate me for this award especially as there are thousands and thousands of doctors in the greater Los Angeles area," said Pangelinan.

Pangelinan is a cancer scientist by trade and worked for the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health and at Amgen, Inc. for eight years.

"I injured my back surfing 15 years ago and my good friend, who was also my treating MD, recommended that I see his chiropractor. That doctor helped to heal my back and I was back to work and even back in the water surfing within a month. I became so fascinated about the concept of natural healing [without drugs or surgery] that I decided not to go to medicine but instead into chiropractic," he shared.

Pangelinan said this is his 11th year in practice. "I am a family practitioner but I specialize in musicians' hands, vocalists' health, and sports and exercise physiology. I also treat a lot of dancers and actors. I currently practice in Studio City in Los Angeles across from Universal Studios. I give talks on different topics relating to health and I am scheduled to do a nutritional talk this month for an information station on local TV here in LA."

Over the years he said his patients have always been wonderful and routinely have brought him and his staff thoughtful gifts, food, and wine/spirits.

"They have given us wonderful reviews on many rating websites. But this was the first time that they took their time to nominate me for an award such as this. I am truly grateful," he added.

Camacho submits bill to implement Hay Group recommendations for govt wages

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho transmitted proposed legislation to I Liheslaturan Guåhan which would implement a compensation policy within the government of Guahan that is consistent with the Government-wide Position, Classification, Compensation, and Benefits Study Plan conducted by the Hay Group, Inc.

Additionally, he signed Executive Order 2010-24 adopting the implementation plan to adjust the compensation and classification of government positions.

The legislation would appropriate $5.5 million for implementation of the outcomes of the comprehensive Government-wide Position, Classification, Compensation, and Benefits Study Plan conducted by the Hay Group, Inc.

It further recommends that salary and salary ranges of unclassified positions in the executive and legislative branches be solely on employment status, and proposes that a study of positions within the legislative branch be included in the government-wide review so pay plan issues can be addressed concurrently.

"It is critical that all changes in compensation be uniformly adjusted," said Governor Camacho. "The recommendations made by the Hay Study have been a long time coming and it is important to ensure that all hard-working government employees receive a fair and honest wage."

For more information, you may contact Charlene Calip at 475-9303 or 788-0589. ***(PR)***

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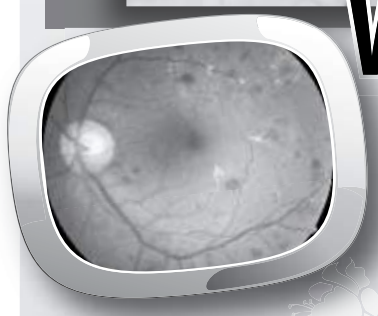
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DPS finalizing report on accident that killed pedestrian

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A traffic investigator is still finalizing his report regarding the accident last Saturday night in Garapan in which a man died after a vehicle struck him when he crossed the road in front of the Mom's Round Two Bar and Grill.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Traffic investigator Norris Kwon is still working on the report and will be consulting the traffic prosecutor with the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division.

Blas said Officer Kwon has yet to inform him about the cause of the crash as it is still under investigation.

"So I can't really say if there will be charges or no charges filed against the driver," he said.

Blas yesterday identified the driver as 19-year-old Ham W. Hambros, a Chuukese.

The DPS spokesman said that, on the night of the crash Hambros was not issued a citation or was arrested.

Blas earlier said investigator Kwon has ruled out speed and alcohol on the part of the driver.

Police said the pedestrian, identified as Insung "Joe" Lee, 26, a Korean national, had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .213.

ESGR SUPPORTER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan joins other employers and agencies in the Commonwealth in support of service members and their families. Sablan and his staff join Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR CNMI State chair Mariano Fajardo, and members Ed Salas, Janice Tenorio, and Rose Igitol for a photo after the signing ceremony.

The legal BAC limit in the CNMI is .08.

At scene-investigation conducted by Traffic Officer Maverick Saures showed that a red 2001 Toyota Highlander five-door wagon driven by Hambros was traveling east on the east bound lane and approaching the Mom's Round Two Bar location.

Lee crossed the roadway south from the direction of Mom's Round Two and was struck by the vehicle on the east bound lane.

Lee was immediately taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for a fractured skull and bleeding in the brain (traumatic brain injuries).

Lee was then admitted to the intensive care unit where he was in coma. On Monday night, he passed away.

Buckingham creates working group to assist CUC management activities

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham has created a consent decree working group to supplement ongoing management activities at CUC.

In the CNMI's monthly report recently filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Buckingham said they formed the working group after a joint stipulation was executed.

The CNMI government, CUC, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency executed a second joint stipulation on Aug. 12, 2010.

The second joint stipulation required the CNMI and CUC to provide EPA with bimonthly reports of any federal funds or grants they used for any activities under the stipulated orders entered in the U.S. government's lawsuit against CUC.

The joint stipulation provides, among other things, deadlines for CUC to comply with.

Buckingham promised to remain engaged and to contribute to ongoing monitoring and reporting of Commonwealth progress.

Buckingham said since its formation, the working group has scheduled and held biweekly meetings.

"Working group has maintained notes of meetings and tracked CUC performance relative to objectives of Aug. 12, 2010 stipulation," he said.

The stipulated orders were intended to resolve longstanding deficiencies relating to CUC's wastewater systems, drinking water systems, and oil storage, transportation, and disposal program. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

MINA: Plant a tree, make a difference

Over 188 countries will be involved on Sunday, Oct. 10, when thousands of environmentally oriented events will take place to do a project in their community that would help deal with global warming.

The event is called the 10/10/10 Global Work Party. Why 350? Scientists say that 350 parts per million CO2 in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity. As trees grow, they help stop global warming by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the tress and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

If you would like to make a difference in our environment, plant a tree on 10/10/10. MINA will be giving out free plants and plant vouchers to obtain plants at private nurseries while supplies last and starting on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 12pm to Sunday, Oct. 10, at 12pm. The plants were donated by Ron, Herminia, and Rachel Fusco, Capt. Carl and Lian Brachear, Felix M. Sablan, and the CNMI Division of Forestry.

For more information, contact the MINA office at 233-7333. ***(PR)***

'Heightened domestic violence awareness in CNMI'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said the CNMI has "really heightened" domestic violence awareness in the community over the last few years.

Govendo addressed yesterday community members who rally for a violence-free community during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month kick-off ceremony at the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence office in Oleai.

"Twenty years ago, the CNMI response to domestic violence is 'it's a family thing and we can't interfere.' Now we're getting better at it. We've come a long way," said Govendo who is a family court judge.

Govendo acknowledged all supporters and advocates of domestic violence awareness who made it possible for the community to change its mindset toward domestic violence in the CNMI.

He noted that a victim of domestic violence continues to suffer even after the perpetrator has already been convicted because of the trauma the victim has to go through.

Govendo said there will always be cases of domestic violence "because of the very nature of what it is" but still expressed hope that there will still be a time when there will be no more domestic violence cases.

"As long as we get serious about it, we'll raise domestic violence awareness and continue to make a difference in the society," he said.

The kick-off ceremony consisted of the reading of the proclamation signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Sept. 29 designating October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This year's theme is "Striving for a Safer Community."

Shelli Neal, domestic violence prosecutor at the Office of the Attorney General, read the proclamation.

Neal said their office takes pride in the prosecutions they have made despite the lack of personnel and funding.

"The longer a case goes on, the more pressure builds up and a lot of emotions are affected," said Neal.

The kick-off ceremony also featured the reading of the CNMI success story on the fight against domestic violence which was highlighted at the annual Office of Violence Against Women meeting in San Francisco last February.

Shirlynn Perez read the story about the victim, a contract worker from the Philippines, who sought help from Guma' Esperansa after suffering physical and emotional abuse from her common-law spouse.

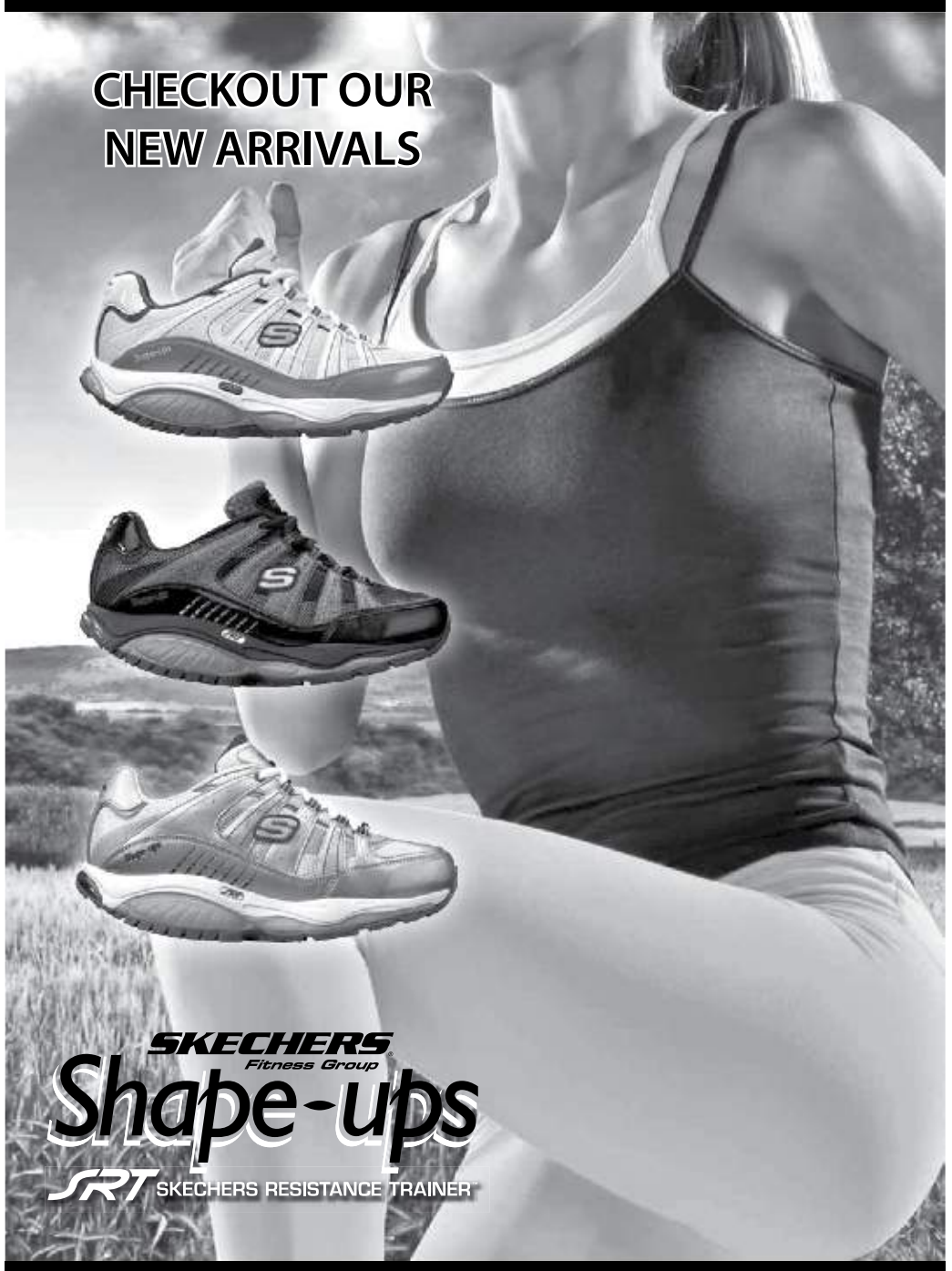
CLARISSA V. DAVID

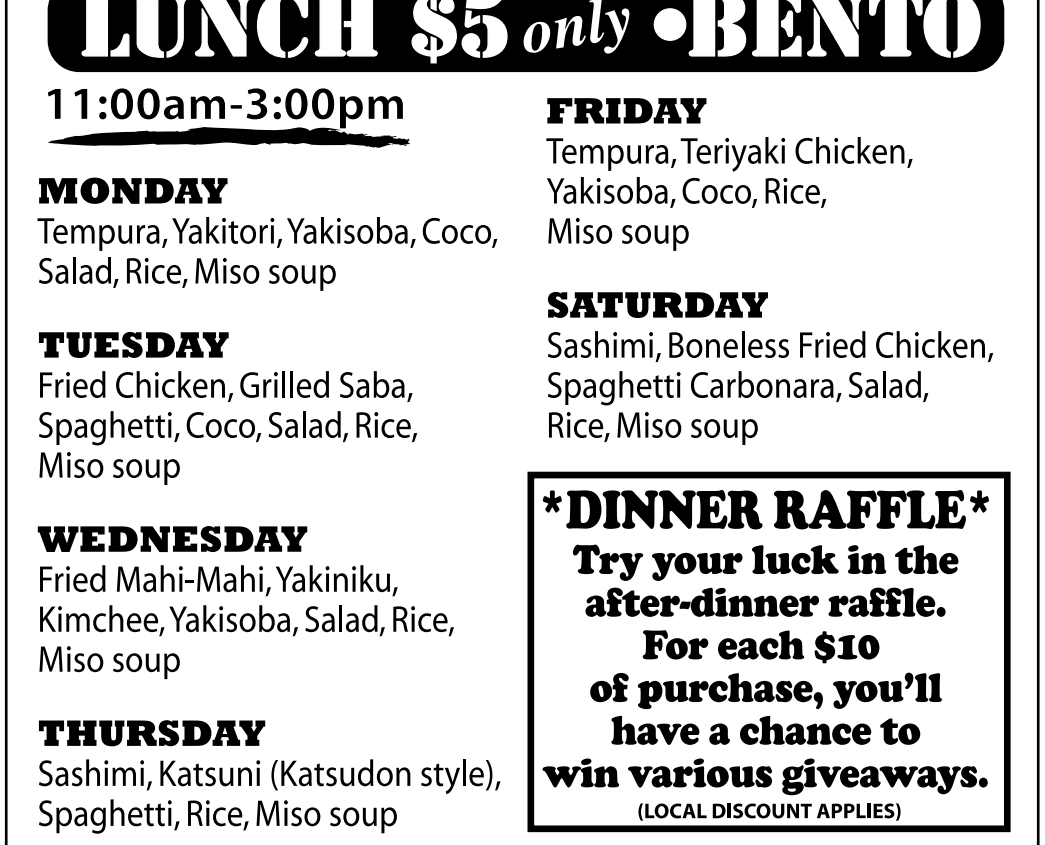
Domestic violence awareness supporters and advocates pose for a group photo during the kick-off ceremony of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month yesterday.

Perez said the woman is now close to receiving her U visa.

Govendo said she was the victim of the first man convicted of stalking in the CNMI. He was deported back to the Philippines.

A number of activities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in celebration of Domestic Violence Awareness Month have also been identified during the kick-off ceremony.

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WEDNESDAY
Fried Mahi-Mahi, Yakiniku, Kimchee, Yakisoba, Salad, Rice, Miso soup
THURSDAY
Sashimi, Katsuni (Katsudon style), Spaghetti, Rice, Miso soup
FRIDAY
Tempura, Teriyaki Chicken, Yakisoba, Coco, Rice, Miso soup
SATURDAY
Sashimi, Boneless Fried Chicken, Spaghetti Carbonara, Salad, Rice, Miso soup
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Juan Pan's motion to stay judgment denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday denied businessman Juan Pan T. Guerrero's motion to stay the court's judgment that found him guilty of driving while under the influence of alcohol and two other traffic offenses.

Manglona reiterated her earlier determination that the government was able to meet its burden by providing sufficient evidence to support the conviction of Guerrero.

With respect to the issue of likelihood of prevailing in the appeal, the judge said it's a matter of interpretation of the facts in the case.

On the issue of hardship such as unavailability of transcript of the trial for attorney Steven Pixley who substituted the defendant's original counsel, Manglona said the facts in the case are available.

Manglona ordered the 60-year-old Guerrero to start serving the five-day jail term on Oct. 15, 2010 at 7am.

Guerrero did not attend the hearing as he was off-island yesterday. Assistant Attorney General Tiberius Mocanu argued for the government.

Pixley, counsel for Guerrero, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that they are going to file before the high court a motion to stay of the sentence pending their appeal.

"We respect the judge's decision. But we disagreed with the decision," Pixley said.

Pixley said he communicated with Guerrero and that their plan is going to the next level by requesting the CNMI Supreme Court to stay the sentence pending their appeal.

During a bench trial, Manglona had found Guerrero guilty of driving under the influence, speeding by failing to maintain a clear distance, and refusal to submit to a breath test. She acquitted him of reckless driving.

The case arose from incident on the night of March 4, 2010, when Guerrero hit another vehicle being driven by Chester Cuento on the northbound lane of Middle Road in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

In the motion to stay, Pixley argued that the evidence presented during the trial was insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that his client was guilty of driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Bank of Guam Offers Loan Deferrals to Affected CNMI Government Employees

October 04, 2010, Hagatña, Guam and Garapan, Saipan - The Bank of Guam today announced the availability of loan deferrals to CNMI Government Employees facing hardships as a result of reduced working hours. The program is effective immediately and will considered on a case-by-case basis.

CNMI Government Employees are encouraged to contact their local Bank of Guam CNMI Branch Managers and Credit Officers to discuss the details of the program. **Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam Board Chair, President and Chief Executive Officer stated, "The Bank of Guam is mindful of its community responsibility and is offering this opportunity to assist CNMI Government Employees who need it."**

For additional information, please contact Marcie M. Tomokane, VP/CNMI Regional Manager at 670-236-2700, extension 3200 or fax 670-233-5003.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 8, 1999

NMC opens business planning course

The Small Business Development Center of the Northern Marianas College is offering a new course that would assist local entrepreneurs in planning their businesses. SBDC deputy director Eric Plinske said the new course, called Business Plan for Success, is intended for entrepreneurs who are trying to start up a business, as well those who are considering expanding their operations. "Some people who want to start a business have an idea, and they want to find out if this is going to work; if so, how can they set up a plan to get this business off the ground," Plinske said. The first session of the six-week course began Wednesday night. Classes are held once a week.

Gov't lawyer says CNMI needs to update anti-domestic violence law

A government lawyer is urging the Legislature to act on a pending bill that seeks to address the increasing cases of domestic violence in the CNMI. "It's something that we really need," Assistant Atty. General James Benedetto said, noting that pertinent local laws are already "out-of-date." Benedetto spoke at the "Tips for Managers" workshop organized recently by the Family Violence Task Force. The workshop, which was among the activities that kicked off the observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, discussed domestic violence issues in the work place.

Oct. 8, 2001

MVA's request for $1M in emergency funds backed

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has expressed support to the Marianas Visitors Authority's request for an emergency measure funding of $1 million. The additional funding has been eyed to help the MVA effectively promote the Northern Marianas as a safe tourist destination, in light of the worsening travel scare caused by the September 11 terror attacks. Citing the possible damages that may virtually cripple the CNMI's revenue base, which may eventually affect the delivery of public services, the CPA Board urged the 12th CNMI Legislature to appropriate the needed financial assistance to the MVA's marketing and promotional activities.

Did he or didn't he?

Did he really say it? Or was he just being misquoted again? A slew of calls made to the Saipan Tribune on Friday insisted that Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta, the gubernatorial candidate of the Republican Party, never made any anti-foreigner statements during the debate sponsored by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce on October 1. The callers, who did not identify themselves, said that Babauta's statements were being taken out of context and that nowhere did he make any negative references to alien workers during the debate. The Saipan Tribune is therefore printing that particular portion of the debate that provoked this particular controversy in the first place, to put Babauta's statement in its proper context. The question that night was about attracting new businesses into the CNMI. As read by Steve Nygard, the debates' moderator, the question was: A recent law was passed to create a Qualifying Certificate Program. This program aims to grant tax incentives to new businesses that are established in the CNMI and to existing businesses that expand. What types of industries do you think would be beneficial to the CNMI and what measures would you take to bring these industries here?

Oct. 8, 2002

OPA begins review of NMC redesign plan

The Office of the Public Auditor began its review of the Northern Marianas College' redesign plan yesterday, following the Legislature's adoption of a resolution calling for an in-depth probe of the issue. In Joint Resolution 13-9, which was adopted Thursday, both the Senate and the House of Representatives called on the OPA to conduct the investigation. Newly appointed NMC Finance and Administrative Services Director David Atalig said OPA began the probe yesterday at the Human Resources Office. "They're starting to do their investigation. Personally, I think it's good because they can finally see that there's no wrongdoing," he said, adding that the NMC is open to investigations.

NMC convenes first planning summit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College recently held its first planning summit where members of the institution participated in formulating and reviewing the college's 2011 operational plan. Management and employees, along with other stakeholders, gathered last Friday at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall for the event. Classes and activities on campus were cancelled in acknowledging the important training for the personnel.

The operational plan stems from NMC's five-year strategic plan, which was approved by the Board of Regents in 2008. The main goals identified in the said strategic plan include promoting student learning and success and responding to the professional development, continuing education, and personal enrichment needs of the Commonwealth.

The strategic plan also involves optimizing financial and human resources of the college, and accelerate the upgrade of physical and technology infrastructure.

Saipan Tribune learned that as part of the strategic plan, several priority initiatives were identified as well.

NMC management said yesterday that approximately 200 faculty, staff, and students participated in the summit.

Prior to the event, all departments were asked to align their departmental goals, or outcomes, to the priority initiatives.

During the summit, all participants were assigned to different groups to critique and evaluate the links between programs' outcomes and the strategic plan's 28 priority initiatives.

Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation Liaison Officer Galvin Guerrero also discussed and shared highlights from the college's accreditation reaffirmation efforts.

"The Planning Summit enabled our students, staff, and faculty to participate in meaningful dialogue about what the college's focus will be in 2011 and beyond," said interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera.

She said the planning summit was made possible through funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas College faculty and staff discuss the NMC Strategic Plan 2008-2012 at the 2010 NMC Planning Summit held recently. The campus community participated in the daylong event to discuss and analyze NMC's strategic and operational plan, which is also part of the college's overall accreditation efforts.

6 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Dai-Ichi Drainage, Samoa Housing, Hafadai Beach Hotel, and Garapan Beach Drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Change Cuba trade policy

This summer's massive BP oil spill took the steam out of reckless proposals to breach the 125-mile buffer zone for drilling off Florida's Gulf coast. But just when you thought it was safe to get back into the water, Cuba is lining up a Spanish company to drill next year off its coast just 50 miles from the Florida Keys.

If a well in those waters has a blowout like the one BP had, crude could start washing up on Florida beaches in three days, according to a recent New York Times report. And in a perverse consequence of the 48-year-old embargo on U.S. trade with Cuba, U.S. companies face prohibitive limits on providing the kind of equipment and expertise that could prevent a blowout, or contain the damage if one occurred.

It's yet another reason for leaders in Washington to rethink the nation's ineffectual and counterproductive policy of severely limiting economic engagement, through trade and travel, with Cuba.

That policy hasn't promoted fundamental political or economic reforms on the island. It hasn't advanced human rights.

Cuba's communist dictatorship, imposed by Fidel Castro, maintains its grip on power under his brother, Raul. Ten U.S. presidents have come and gone in the meantime.

If anything, U.S. policy has provided the Castros with a ready scapegoat for the repression they've inflicted on generations of Cubans. It has strengthened state control by making the people more dependent on the government.

But there are hints of change—in Havana and in Washington.

Recently Raul Castro announced that his government would lay off half a million state workers, relax some controls on private business and accept more foreign investment. Meanwhile, a U.S. House committee was poised to consider legislation to end the ban on travel to Cuba for most Americans before time ran out on the latest session of Congress.

We have long opposed the ban because it limits U.S. visibility and influence on the island. It also hurts the ability of many Cuban Americans to travel to Cuba because it permits Havana to be highly selective in choosing who gets a visa. Groups that are sympathetic to the communist regime have no problem getting permission to travel there, while those that have been vocal about human-rights abuses and authoritarian government don't get in.

Most Florida politicians from both parties, wary of strong anti-Castro sentiment among their constituents, have vehemently opposed any easing of travel and trade restrictions on Cuba. But Fidel and Raul won't be around forever.

And Florida would be among the biggest beneficiaries of an opening of trade and travel between the United States and Cuba. U.S. exports to Cuba would surge, with much of them originating or moving through Florida. The Sunshine State would become a transit point for a flood of U.S. tourists to Cuba.

By engaging with Cuba, the United States would have some hope of influencing its government to take greater care in protecting both countries from the devastating impact of an offshore oil spill. Steps might include agreements that would keep some ecologically sensitive locations off limits. That could be a long shot, but with no engagement, there would be no hope.

Whether it's to guard the environment and economy of Florida or expose more Cubans to America's influence, an overhaul in the failed U.S. policy toward Cuba is decades overdue.

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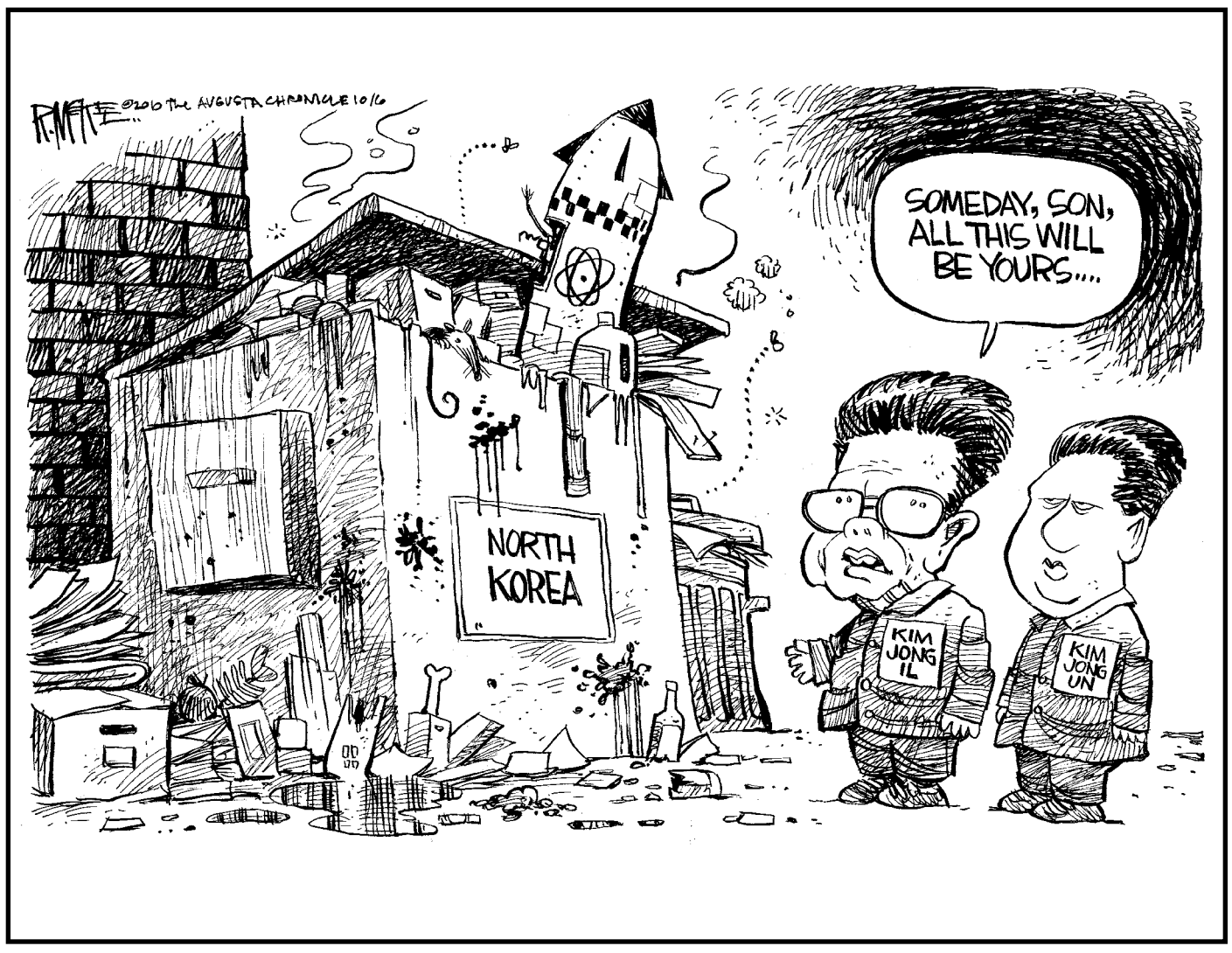


Slammin' Islam

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It is TGIF. The secular meaning to that is unmistakable. A trek to Godfather on Saipan is a spiritual journey to some. In Mecca, it is a holiday. The non-Islamic interpretation is that the Jewish market day preceded the Sabbath and frenetic Friday finances from trade and commerce are concluded before sundown before everything shabatt, "ceases" and the day of rest begins. Friday prayers at the mosque developed its special character.

Christians, of course, have their good Friday, and at least in the culinary arts, the followers of Yoshua Ibn Nazareth were vegans or marine life (followers of the fish, get it?) dependents on Venus' day (Viernes). The Sabbath followed the Jewish tradition until Constantine deferred to the sun god as incarnated in the holy child, so now, Sabalu is farmers' market day for the residents of Saipan, and we head for Mass on Sunday.

We may not hear the sing-song minaret call to prayer in Saipan but I am sure Prophet M's followers are faithful in their ablutions.

'Slammin' in American slang means "wicked," as in "extremely desirable," or awesome like, "your hairdo is slammin'!" In this sense, in the Middle East and the Muslim world, Islam is slammin' on Fridays.

Not in the United States these days. In fact, slammin' Islam has become a national political pastime, served with tea. Islam is "wicked" literally. Whispering that Barack Hussein Obama is not named such, or would not have kept the name if he was not secretly a Muslim, seems to make political hay among fellow citizens in the hinterlands, the plains, the prairies, and the suburbs.

Of course, the theatrical mileage that the threatened burning of the Qur'an accomplished on 9/11 either exposed a malignant prejudice in the soft underbelly of America, or a rabid virus infecting the interior castles of our electorate. In either case, a mosque is just not fit to be in our neighborhood, unless one lived in Urumqi.

All of these resound back to the history of god-talk that has bedeviled Jerusalem in its long history of being a lost-and-then-found again city by the Jews (destruction of the temple and return from Babylonian exile), by Christians when Heraklius entered Jerusalem carrying a relic of the Cross after the Persians conquest of 614, and the 1187 peaceful Muslim reclaiming of the city after the Crusaders 1099 bloodbath.

All told, about 4,000 individuals who do their ablutions five times on Friday live on Saipan, from Bangladesh to Pakistan, with a smattering of Malay, Zhongguo-ren, and Pinoys. For political reasons, the Pinoy variety has been targeted as object of pejorative graffiti literary art, and not surprisingly since the U.S. military presence in the Philippines, after the closure of the U.S. Naval and Air Force bases, was shifted to "advising" Filipino troops in the southern part of the Philippines in their quest for the Abu Sayyaf. Not coincidentally, U.S. foreign aid and war-on-terror mullah-moolah has also poured into that southwestern quadrant of Mindanao in the last 20 years.

For anyone who has been ecumenically engaged beyond just nice afternoon tea parties among fellow communicants, the recovery of the experience behind the god-talk can be a way of recovering the civility if not the genuine tolerance needed in maintaining a culturally diverse society like that of Saipan, and the United States.

Now, stick with the experience of the awesome and forget the dogmas of the god-talk, or that Sr. Stella will not be ordained a priest in her lifetime. (Yes, Faridah, the Imams do not have a monopoly on patriarchy.) Stick with the "slammin" experience, the awe-full awesome experience that is common to every conscious human being on the planet. Hang on, we won't be long.

Three perspectives have developed in viewing that experience. The first is the view from outside of one's self, not unlike the feeling of looking down on Saipan from the sky aboard Asiana Air on a moonlit night. It is clear but from a distance. It is accompanied by elation and anticipation. The awesome is coming at you. This is a transcendent view.

Then there is the journey into the interior castle, like Alice in Wonderland, or the journey to the Wizard of Oz. The profound depth of psychology is plumbed until one is hanging over the abyss, and one can swirl like a whirling dervish, or frozen in a trance like a Buddhist ascetic, but the awesome is experienced from within. "Emmanuel," El-is-with-us (emmanu). This is the immanent view.

The transparent view is when one holds a mirror and we discover that we are oblivious in doing tai-chi in our Hanes. The awesome breakthrough makes things transparent often bursting our balloons (just awe-full!), but it allows us to confront the truth and see reality, both gore and splendor. The awesome dwells amongst us and in us, precious as an amargozo seed.

If slammin' Islam this Friday is focused on talking about the awesomeness of the human journey, and that all of us, whatever awesome-talk we grew up with, can share in the nitty-gritty down to earth awe-full-ness of it all, we might discover our common humanity and just be the earthlings who are the awed ones!

Wicked. Didn't think doing a dry subject like this could be slammin'! My Malay Methodist colleagues would say, Allahu akbar! TGIF.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Paved with wishful thinking

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Sometimes a little bad news can be a warning sign that lets you avoid more trouble ahead. When you're driving down a dark road and your headlights sweep some debris, you'll probably want to react before you move too much further.

So that's what the Commonwealth's budget feud is: Just a little bit of economic debris in the headlights. Not a huge deal, but I wouldn't want to roll over it and ignore the next bend on the dark road, a road that is a down-hill grade into more problems.

So, what can anyone do about it? Well, those who will prevail will be the brutal realists, such is the nature of risk management. So first let's consider what you can't do about it.

First thing: You surely can't change the road.

This road is already paved, marked, and set. When the Commonwealth committed to this path in 1998, turning away from developing package tourism (its only innately viable industry; we'll talk about garments some other time), it also committed to the consequences. So of course there are budget problems, the CNMI is not productive enough to support itself. The "gimme that" exceeds the available "here you go."

We're in good company, actually, the U.S. is embarked on the same doomed adventure on its own account.

Second thing: You can yell from the back seat, but it won't do you any good.

If people want to shout at each other, get mad at each other, and so on, then that's what they'll do, of course. Whatever you want to call it, it's not problem-solving.

Third thing: You can take your foot off the gas, and steer yourself around the trouble.

Hey, it works for me. You've heard of defensive driving? I think this is a good time to be, well, just plain defensive. Maybe if huge piles of federal money starts flowing from military activity, everything will change. But, for now, we're on the road we're on. There are no others.

The business community should be keeping a careful eye on the political speed bumps, or, should I say, ambushes. A small private sector sees itself as indispensable by virtue of its very rarity, but it's just this smallness that makes it a vulnerable target when it's time for more "free money."

Meanwhile, unless I missed some nuance of CNMI tax codes, the bite of the receipts tax is going to hurt even more, as eventual wage hikes eat the bottom line, but you're still being taxed off the top line. So in this case, the effective rate on earnings goes up, while the nominal rate does not. Things are tough, and getting tougher.

As for individuals, well, judging from similar situations I've seen, the CNMI may be headed for situation in which financial matters are rivaled by personal safety concerns.

There is a conceptual trap at issue, and it works like this: Whenever we go to a new and strange place, if it's the sort of place that merits some concerns about crime, we'll be attuned to things around us, and we'll be careful where we go. It's an easy perceptual shift: We know that our circumstances have changed, because our place has changed.

But if we are living in a familiar place, and the socio-economic reality is gradually changing, month after month, year after year, it's hard to recognize the new circumstances, because, of course, we're not in a new place. There is no single event to provide us with a clean-sheet perspective on things. And even if we try to think about it objectively, it's hard to do, because we've got an emotional stake in the gig: We have history with it, ties to it, status in it, and expectations of it, in sum, we identify with it. In a sense, we are it, and it is us, so to get any real perspective is like trying to chew our own teeth.

Like wow, man, that's pretty trippy stuff. The trap applies to a lot of things, of course, not just crime rates.

Well, what the heck, if any good can come of the great Commonwealth budget fiasco, maybe it's that it will refresh some perspectives.

After all, collectively, the frustration you see today is rooted in the wishful thinking of the past. Such is the nature of groupthink. No way to avoid that, it's just human nature.

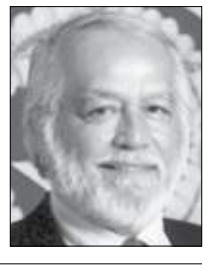
But individually, the way to avoid frustration is to avoid wishful thinking to begin with.

So, for now, says me: Easy does it, keep a foot off the gas, and a steady hand on the wheel.

Fingers in the cash box—call 911

By STANLEY MCGINNIS TORRES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Torres is a member of the 17th House of Representatives



A couple of issues need clearing up regarding the fight to produce a balanced budget and put a stop to the partial government shutdown.

First, the issue on the eight- vs. 16-hour austerity measure as the big bone of contention the real reason there is no budget passed yet it is the Senate's insistence on packing the Rota and Tinian budgets with extra cash. They want to set up a slush fund controlled by the respective mayors of Tinian and Rota. At first, the Senate proposed getting over $2 million by just not paying the governments utility bill. Since you and I have to pay if the government doesn't the House strongly opposed this measure. Now they want to take the money from MVA to pack in the Tinian and Rota cash drawer for:

Senate wants to include Rota Casino Gaming Commission employees to be included as government employees for two years with all the salaries and benefits of CNMI employees and for how many of them?

Either the Rota Municipality or Rota Legislative Delegation has an outstanding account amounting to $120,000 with KNT for completed Japan/Rota Charter flights, soon to be litigated?

Senate wants to give $315,000 each to the Rota and Tinian mayors as the expenditure authorities for their own Japan tourist destination charter flights.

This budget impasse has nothing to do with work hour cuts. It is the red herring to draw your attention away from the cash grab.

Second, our Constitution calls for a bi-cameral (two houses) legislature. The attempt by the Senate to call a "joint" voting meeting is nothing more than a transparent ploy to combine their self interest votes with the minority block votes to gain a one-vote advantage going in. First they want to pack the cash drawer, now to get the cash they want to pack the ballot box. A two house Legislature keeps the foxes that guard the chicken-house from ganging up on the chickens.

Those of you who are easily appalled at the backroom antics of an nontransparent government should be absolutely outraged that services are on hold and people out of work so a few powerful folks can take cash paid primarily by Saipan residents and slip it under the table to the Tinian and Rota Mayors.

There is likelihood that there will be shortages no matter how the 132 Million expected funds are divvied up. One thing is for certain, if the money saved by austerity measures is cut short, then layoffs will happen. Those employees who lose their jobs won't be paying their bills and the companies they owe will have a harder time staying in business and the cycle of depression will deepen as those tax payers and tax paying companies go under.

Friends, there are no easy solutions. There are good choices and bad ones. Grabbing the cash as the Senate currently wants is a bad one.

Letter to the Editor

Government shutdown not politics

Last Fridays headlines was a sad day for our Commonwealth, most especially for all the non-essential government employees. Although it doesn't affect me personally, I figured I would ID add my thoughts regarding this powder keg of topics. I want to first point out that this problem is not isolated to our tropical paradise—it's global.

Its so bad that Iceland is considering bringing criminal charges against its former prime minister because their government financially collapsed under his watch. There are also austerity protests all across Europe where people are walking off the job to show their dissatisfaction with the way their individual countries are handling this controversial issue.

Earlier this year, I spent a few months in the U.S. for medical reasons and was surprised to find that Hawaii, California, and few other states have Furlough Fridays and unpaid holidays for all state employees. That's 16 hours plus per pay period. I could not help but think how lucky our government employees were to have a job and all they had to do was tighten their belts a little and ride it out but that's no longer an option.

Anyway, as I was reading last Friday's *Tribune*, so many thoughts came pouring into my brain, I felt compelled to vent and write a letter to the editor. I will try my best to compartmentalize and not just ramble.

First, non-essential vs. essential government agencies and employees. I've yet to see a list that categorizes all the different government agencies affected other than health, education, and public safety. These three are definitely essential although I'm pretty sure that within the Big 3, there are non-essential positions.

I wont even try to differentiate what positions go under which category because I'll spend all night trying to figure it out. I'm sure everyone will agree that CUC is certainly an essential department but I'm pretty sure there are a lot of people who will concur that the CUC Trouble Desk is a complete waste of resources. I have never once in the 20 plus years that I've lived here been able to talk to anyone there. The 24-hour Emergency telephone numbers are always busy even during non-emergencies. I've tried to call just to see if anybody's there but the line is still busy. So lets call this non-essential.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, for example, is one of our largest agencies and they will take a big hit. We no longer have the luxury of having a Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission, Historic Preservation, and other such departments. I wanted to add a little humor to this letter but there's nothing funny about this and I see I've begun to ramble so I'll just get to the point.

The most non-essential government agency and employees are the leadership of the House of Representatives. In the lead story last Friday's *Saipan Tribune*, Rep. Ray Basa was quoted as saying "I am proud I have a group of leaders who believe in honest and fair government. No more politics." I'm sorry to be the one to tell you that you are a very naive young man. However, your statement that I quoted is the main point of my letter which is to say that yes "No More Politics."

Its special interest in the form of hijacking the government and holding the budget hostage so that Speaker Froilan Tenorio can get his Saipan casino bill passed. That's it. I truly believe that this is his one and only reason for running- Saipan casinos. For the past few years, I've seen the speaker jump to every American political group there is, with the exceptions of the Green Party and the Libertarians. He was a Republican as our Washington Rep., Democrat as governor and when he wasn't re-elected, he started the Reform Party. Now that he's joined the Covenant Party, he gets elected and is picked as speaker. Good move.

Now, if anyone was paying attention, for the past few years, he has constantly pushed for casino gambling in Saipan, including introducing it in the form of riverboat casino so that it's

See GOVERNMENT on Page 15

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲85° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

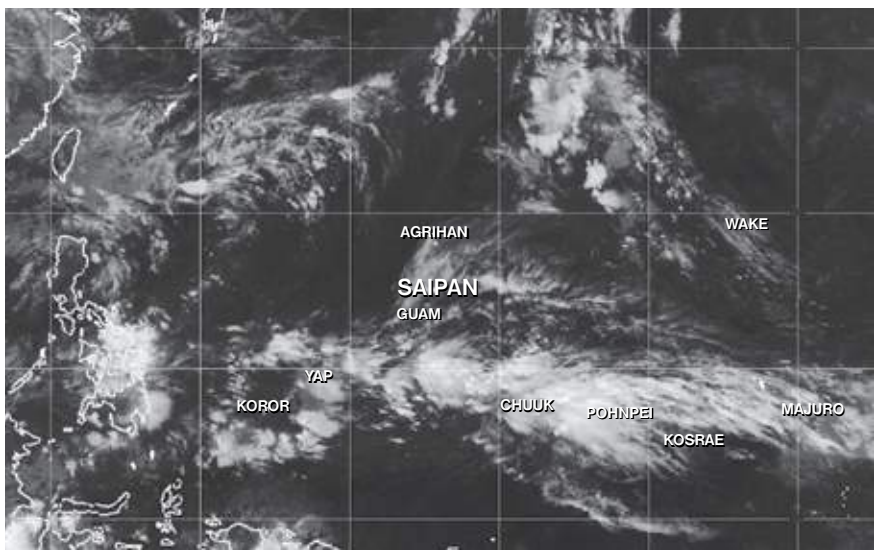
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲62	▼57
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼54
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲78	▼68
Honolulu	Sunny	▲85	▼73
London	Fog	▲68	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲66	▼47
Miami	Sunny	▲85	▼70
New York	Sunny	▲72	▼55
Osaka	Showers	▲70	▼64
Paris	Fog	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Showers	▲73	▼63
Rome	Sunny	▲79	▼56
Salem	Showers	▲68	▼57
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼58
Seoul	Sunny	▲72	▼57
Tokyo	Showers	▲69	▼64
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲76	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough extends northeastward from 11N135E through a low centered west of the Marianas at 16N141E to 22N149E then curves southeastward to end at another low centered at 17N157E. Upper-level divergence near these features is aiding in the development of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marianas between 16N and 9N from 140E to 149E and over Wake Island within an area bounded by a line from 25N156E to 25N161E to 19N168E to 14N159E back to 25N156E. A surface trough east of the Marshall Islands stretches southwestward from 10N180 to 3N173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of Majuro within 120 miles of a line from 5N172E to 7N180. Another surface trough west of Palau runs southwestward from 20N135E to beyond 130E at 10N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located west of Koror between 10N and 4N from 130E to 133E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered to widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei and kosrae within an large area bounded by a line from 6N150E to 12N150E to 12N158E to 8N170E to 2N159E back to 6N150.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:53 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:13 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	7:14 AM	7:01 PM
Sunday	8:17 AM	7:54 PM
Monday	9:18 AM	8:49 PM
Tuesday	10:17 AM	9:45 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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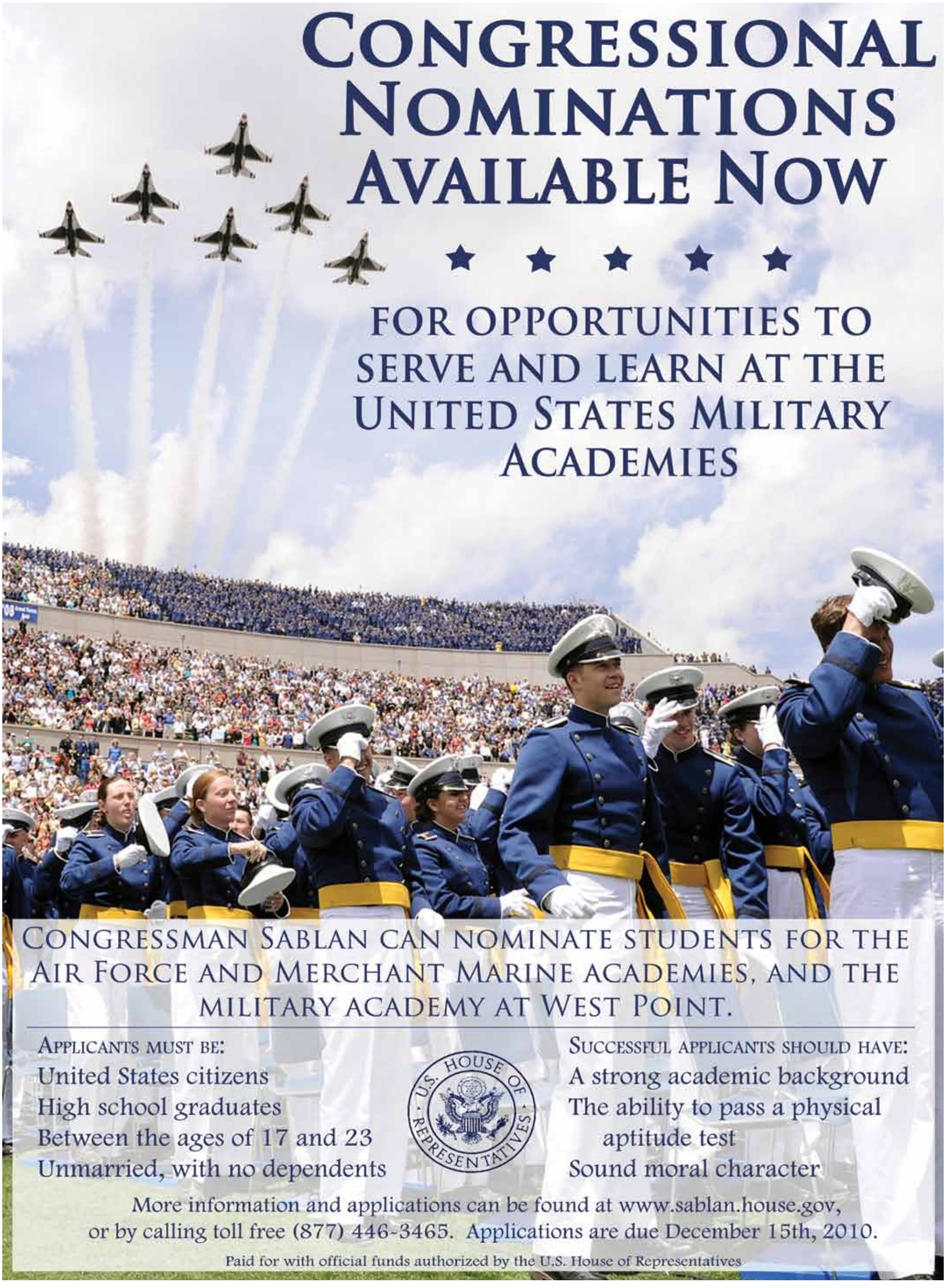
ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily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Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Compromise achieved, move to pass the budget bill

Mr. Speaker, I believe that both the House and the Senate have finally reached a compromise. The Senate's official offer of a 12-hour cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays should be, and must be accepted by the House.

Now move immediately to pass the budget bill. The fact that the House is a Covenant majority along with the administration, all of you and your colleagues must, for the sake and the good of all government employees and our community as a whole, set aside your political affiliations (loyalty) and exercise your authority should the governor veto the now compromised budget bill and override his veto.

Remember that the governor continues to insult the people of the Commonwealth that our government is broke but abuses his executive authority by certifying and politically hiring constituents to fill unessential positions since the day he set foot in the executive branch.

The public must be informed that this administration had overspent during past fiscal budgets knowingly that a government shutdown was looming and today expects everyone to live within their means. It's the least you could do before you step down as speaker of the House. A word of advice, loyalty should be and always be to the people you represent that elected all of you into office.

Gregorio Cruz
Taotao Tano president

The Dragon

This is about En Sung Lee; A.K.A. Joe; A.K.A. Dragon, who just recently passed when he was struck by a vehicle in Garapan last Saturday night.

I knew Joe since he was in elementary school. As his teacher, I learned a lot about En Sung from a young age. He was bright and ambitious in his interests. He was a happy person with a great personality. He did not allow much to get in his way. En Sung was very interested in local customs and learned various languages from friends he had made.

He learned Chamorro and Carolinian in bilingual classes. He even took on chewing betel nut. He made friends with everyone, believe me, he had friends. Like everyone else, he had his faults; I remember having to take him off a computer for breaking through a firewall. He was an intellectual powerhouse.

Dragon lived a life that he chose to live and lived it to the max. After he left elementary school, I had no contact with him until he started hanging out in Garapan years later. The first thing people probably noticed about Joe was his unique way of walking. He had a condition that prevented him from walking in a full upright position, however, he walked tall.

He slurred his words, but spoke more languages than most folks. He was a sensation in Garapan. Dragon was involved in everything that went on in Garapan and the Hotel Street area. He knew every cop, bouncer, and shopkeeper. Joe was loved and truly was part of our island community...in his own special way. I remember one time when we hung out together by my truck in Garapan, and he asked me to mix his betel nut as he was feeling tired from walking around all day. I had to pluck the beetle nut and mix from his hip pack which he always wore. As I mixed it, he explained just how much lime to put on and how much of the cigarette I had to break off to put into his mix. Then as soon as I was done, he gently took it from my hand and vigorously chewed like it was the last beetle nut on Saipan. Then he laughed and smiled. While he was chewing, it looked to me, that he just relished life. As we talked, there were people passing by who knew him. He would wave at them and they said hi as they passed.

I would bump into him from time to time, but almost exclusively at night and in Garapan. His charisma was such that even when you are upset or sad about something, then you see him, he would make you smile. He was always happy to see you and would always make you feel important. Joe had always been free and independent even at a young age. He never let his disability get in his way, no matter what. He roamed Garapan freely, and exercised his rights as a free person in America. En Sung Lee is proof that any one of us can live the life we chose to live. We have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. He lived his life the way he wanted, without regrets.

I am grateful to have known En Sung and thank him for how he has enriched my life. He will always roam in my memories.

Thomas M. Thornburgh
NMPASI projects specialist

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

GUANGDONG MILEI?
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Letters to the Editor

Don't let our only surviving industry die

Dear members of the 17th Legislature,

I would like humbly request your kind consideration to please reflect on the following appeal. Whenever you find yourself in a situation as such in the future, please be sympathetic for the only industry we have in our islands.

Tour agents as such will be working diligently to continue to convince other destinations all operations are not effected due to ongoing tension between both houses. But without Marianas Visitors Authority's doors opened to the tourism world, all eyes are on us.

Vendors we owe in Japan, Korea, and others destinations will continue to question if we can be financially be trusted in the promotion and marketing strategies we compete in. Very soon these countries will not have the confidence for us to invest in the competing markets due to our negligence to close the programs we have worked so hard to market and promote. Having to spend so much investment in promotion and to see the programs closed down is very bad image for us.

In order to keep the trust with our local and off-island vendors, I call unto you all to please let the office which represent sour only industry in our islands continue to operate. The MVA plays a vital role in ensuring smooth operation for all those that are in the tourism industry.

The calendared programs under the MVA must carry on its campaign, from the festivals, sports, and outreach community programs; such as the street market, Taste of Marianas, and Christmas in the Marianas are just a few to mention.

It is somewhat ironic that we all agree it is the only industry and then in turn close its doors, due to the austerity we are faced with. I appeal to you all, to please consider always having MVA's door open to the tourism world, by doing so the tourism industry will carry on its trust in the CNMI.

And please don't blame MVA for the downturn of guests coming to our island, their job is to promote what the tour agents, hotels, and restaurants are producing to market. MVA is doing an excellent job in ensuring a successful support to all vendors. We need to understand the world economy is very bad, it has nothing to do with MVA or Article 12.

In the meantime, I call on our community, our families, and friends to let us continue to keep our island clean, together with MVA we can continue to move the only industry we have. So if you ever find yourself in the same situation please be considerate to our only main industry. We lost the garment industry, let us not loose our last and only vendors in the tourism industry.

Gordon I. Marciano
Pacific Development Inc. director

GOVERNMENT

From Page 11

not exactly on land. He was also thought to be allegedly involved in an illegal gambling parlor across from the Hyatt although he was never proven to be a part of that scandal.

This incident is a matter of public record and made the local news. He's always been upfront and honest in regards to his wanting to have casino gambling on Saipan. He's never made secret his intentions and has even got the rest of the leadership believing this is the only way to save Saipan. I know for a fact that he has a list of investors who are ready to pounce if this ever comes to fruition. I no longer have any faith nor do I respect any member of the leadership for holding the budget bill hostage.

I am very disappointed with the vice speaker because I know her and have worked with her. I have always had the utmost respect for her but no more. So I ask the members of the leadership to do what's right and what you all were elected to do or resign. You have made us the laughing stock of the U.S. and its territories. I am ashamed that I actually voted for some of you. One good thing is that the speaker has no intention of running for public office in 2012. This is definitely a good time to consider a part-time legislature.

You meet once a month and get $100 for that day. I've worked at the Legislature and I know for a fact that most elected officials and their staff members are not working full time and actually spend a lot of that time goofing off, making lunch arrangements, etc. If I didn't have medical problems that limit my movements, I would start a petition for a part-time legislature to be put on the ballot for the next election. Let's see how many of you can find jobs in the private sector.

Michael Geisinger
Via email

A disgrace

I would just like to say that what is happening in the CNMI now is a disgrace! I used to live on Saipan from 2002 to 2006. I've followed the politics since then. A lot of politicians should be worried! Where did the money go! Rydlyme....that's a joke! The feds should come in! As a federal taxpayer! I would like to retire there, but something drastic has got to take place!

J. Kumnick
Via email

In giving we receive

Dear brothers and sisters,

During these very tough times, donations are needed now more than ever. Please help by donating non-perishable foods, such as canned goods and small sacks of rice. Drop-off locations right now include Brabu Pharmacy on Middle Road, Liberty Plaza and MITA Travel in Garapan, and Karidat and the Ayuda Network in Chalan Kanoa.

For more information or if you would like to help with pick-ups and deliveries, please call me at 287-7883 or e-mail me at edpropst@rocketmail.com.

It is in giving that we truly receive. Thank you and God bless!

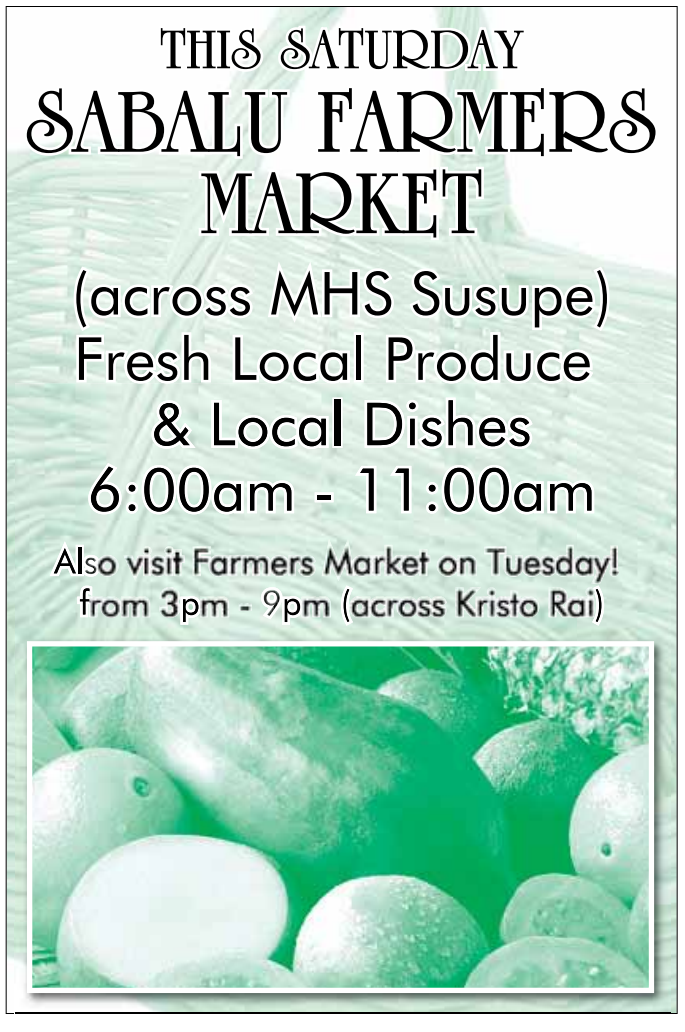
Ed Propst
Dandan

What is going on?

Education is essential. The money for it is also essential. If I could have anything in this world, it would be wisdom—the quality of having experience, knowledge, good judgment. I assume the students who have enrolled in college demand the same thing. They would like to have time in studying, group meetings, projects, essays, term papers, debates, discussions, internships, and etc.

After reading the story about the scholar suffering because her scholarship checks are delayed, I was disheartened, as well as, dissatisfied that this is a result of the ongoing government shutdown. Is the money there? Is it not? One student was told by the office that the check was ready. The office closed the following day though. If the check is there and it is ready, can't someone at the office volunteer their time to go into the office to mail the check? I do not know the stipulations to the government closure or the SOP during a government shutdown. Really, are we going stop workers if they would like to volunteer their time and not be paid for it? Or are there no volunteers, is that it? What is going on? Furthering education is vital. The opportunity to advance is essential and high priority.

Jeaniffer Cubangbang
Via email



Justice Dept. sues Guam, election officials

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department has filed a lawsuit against Guam and its election officials to help ensure that military service members and other U.S. citizens living overseas have the opportunity to participate fully in the Nov. 2 federal general election.

The lawsuit, brought under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), was filed in federal district court in Hagatna, Guam. The department also filed a motion for emergency relief seeking additional time—until Nov. 15, 2010—for receipt of absentee ballots to ensure eligible military and overseas voters have sufficient time to receive, cast and return their ballots and to have their votes counted.

The suit also requests an order requiring Guam officials to take steps to ensure that military and overseas voters have the option of receiving their blank absentee ballots by email.

"Our uniformed service members and other overseas citizens deserve a meaningful opportunity to participate in the elections of our nation's leaders," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "This suit seeks both immediate and permanent relief to ensure that Guam's military and overseas voters, many of whom are members of our armed forces and their families serving our country around the world, will have their votes counted in the upcoming, and future, federal elections."

UOCAVA requires states to allow uniformed service voters (serving both overseas and within the United States) and their families and overseas citizens to register to vote and to vote absentee for all elections for federal office. In 2009, Congress enacted the MOVE Act, which made broad amendments to UOCAVA. Among those changes was a requirement that states transmit absentee ballots to voters covered under UOCAVA, by mail or electronically at the voter's option, no later than 45 days before federal elections.

The action was necessary because Guam failed to mail ballots to its military and overseas citizens until between Sept. 27, 2010, and Oct. 1, 2010, well beyond UOCAVA's deadline of Sept. 18, 2010, the 45th day before this year's general election. Guam also did not timely establish procedures to offer voters the option of receiving their ballots electronically. The requested extension of the deadline for counting UOCAVA ballots will ensure military and overseas voters have a 45-day period to receive, mark and return their ballots.

More information about UOCAVA and other federal voting laws is available on the Department of Justice website at www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting/misc/activ_uoc.htm. Complaints may be reported to the Voting Section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division at 1-800-253-3931. ***(PR)***

Supreme Court declares PL 16-31 unconstitutional

The Supreme Court issued its opinion last Oct. 4 in Department of Public Lands vs. Commonwealth. It ruled that Public Law 16-31, which requires the Department of Public Lands to pay land compensation judgments out of revenues from land leases, is unconstitutional.

Under Article IV, Section 11 of the Commonwealth Constitution, when elected Commonwealth officials disagree over their powers under the NMI Constitution or a Commonwealth statute, the parties may ask the Supreme Court to answer a particular legal question to settle the dispute. In the present case, the Attorney General, on behalf of the Commonwealth government, and the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands, requested that the Court answer whether Public Law 16-31 is constitutional.

The NMI Constitution established two constitutional entities to administer public lands.

The Marianas Public Land Corporation was established as the initial temporary agency with the power to manage and dispose of public lands, and the Marianas Public Land Trust was established as a permanent constitutional entity designed to receive and invest revenues derived from public lands for the benefit of Commonwealth people of Northern Marianas descent.

In 2006, the legislature passed the Public Lands Act, which established DPL to manage and administer the Commonwealth's public lands.

The court held that money received from leases and other transfers of public lands is constitutionally required to be transferred by DPL to the Public Land Trust to hold in trust for the benefit of people of Northern Marianas descent. The court explained that NMI Constitution drafters made clear that the MPLT would receive the funds generated from public lands even after the MPLC dissolved. The court further explained that if one of the functions of the MPLT is to receive the funds from public lands, then any attempt by the legislature to spend those funds before they reach the trust would infringe upon the Constitution, and frustrate the framers' intent to utilize the public lands for the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth who are of Northern Marianas descent. Accordingly, the court ruled that Public Law 16-31 is unconstitutional. The court recognized that if Public Law 16-31 was held to be valid, DPL's operations budget would be overwhelmed by land compensation judgments and the Public Land Trust would effectively be defunded to the detriment of people of Northern Marianas descent. ***(PR)***

NPS CURATOR'S CORNER

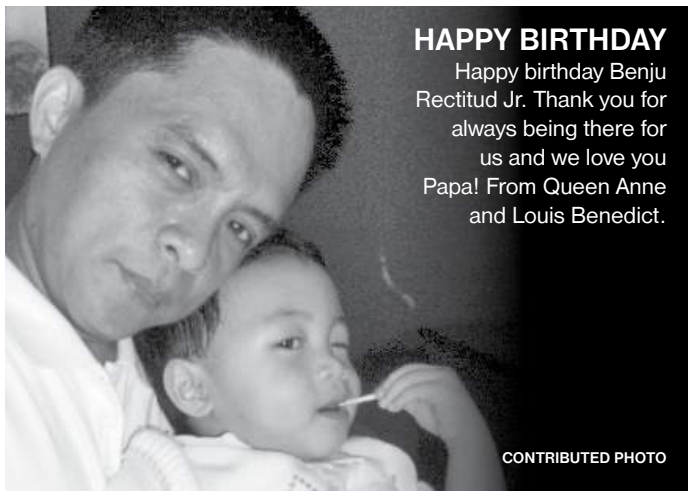
'A rare glimpse of pre-war Guam'

A United States Navy engineer arrives on Guam in 1941. He is captured by the Japanese military, sent to a prisoner of war camp in Japan, and then dies in an American bombing attack launched from the Mariana Islands just months before the end of World War Two.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park will present a Curator's Corner this Saturday afternoon focusing on the life and death of Francis J. Carney. The presentation will take place at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center near the front gate to Naval Base Guam from 1pm to 3pm in the afternoon.

Francis Carney wrote letters home with regularity. These letters now offer us a unique look into life on pre-war Guam. Carney is also seen many times in a home movie recorded on Guam just months before the war by Frank Wolfsheimer, another US Navy engineer. The presentation will allow the public to view this film for the first time on Guam.

Curator's Corner is a monthly offering at the War in the Pacific National Historical Park's T. Stell Newman Visitor Center. Each presentation features items from our collection that are rarely seen by the public and are accompanied by the background story of the items on display. The public is welcome and admission is free. ***(PR)***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Happy birthday Benju Rectitud Jr. Thank you for always being there for us and we love you Papa! From Queen Anne and Louis Benedict.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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JGPO executive director Bice steps down

WASHINGTON, DC—The Joint Guam Program Office today announced that Maj. Gen (Ret.) David Bice will step down as the program office's Executive Director at the end of this year.

Bice, who was appointed to the executive director role in January 2007 following 38 years of service in the Marine Corps, led JGPO's efforts to successfully complete the National Environmental Policy Act process and other critical activities necessary to transition from planning to execution of the Marine Corps relocation from Okinawa, Japan to Guam.

Bice

"Leading the planning effort for the military realignment on Guam and in the CNMI has been a most rewarding and challenging endeavor. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to work closely with Guam and CNMI leaders, members of the community, our federal agency partners, and the government of Japan over the last three years to identify issues and develop innovative solutions," said Bice.

"By working together we have achieved success in many areas: addressing several of Guam's most critical needs with over $1 billion in funding for infrastructure improvements; establishing a framework for continued interagency and civilian/military coordination; and awarding the first contracts of the military construction program. While there is still much work to do to successfully execute the Marine relocation, I am proud of our progress to date and am confident that all parties will continue to work together to achieve our shared vision for a prosperous community for the people of Guam and our military families," he added.

Providing continuity in the leadership of the planning and execution efforts will be JGPO director Joe Ludovici. Mr. Ludovici, who stood up the JGPO in 2006 and has led the staff since that time, served in the United States Navy Civil Engineer Corps for 25 years, including a tour as the Commanding Officer of the Public Works Center in Guam. ***(PR)***

Saipan's Methodists jointly celebrate World Communion

Immanuel Methodist Church (Korean speaking), Immanuel Methodist Church Filipino Congregation and Immanuel United Methodist Church (English), jointly celebrated World Communion last Sunday. This service joined millions of Christians around the world .

Although Saipan's three Methodist Churches occasionally jointly celebrate other services, World Communion truly focuses on the universality of God. The entire 10am service held at Immanuel Methodist Church in Koblerville included the different languages and nationalities. From the call to worship, through the closing hymn, Bibles were read, prayers offered and hymns sung in Korean, Tagalog, Chamorro, English, Fijian, and Chinese. The closing hymn "Amazing Grace" again in the various languages so reflected God's strength through unity, even when unable to speak each others' languages.

Pastors Lee Myung Taek and Millie Carroll were joined by many members and choirs of the three congregations in leading the service.

Prayers of peace for the world, for guidance for CNMI government, for all governments, for our churches to be faithful to God's call, and prayers for all people throughout the world were offered in Korean, Tagalog, and English.

The first World Communion Celebration was held in 1936 in the United States during its struggle to overcome economic difficulties of the Great Depression and fears and signs World War II would begin. The World Communion concept began with a group of Presbyterian pastors in Pennsylvania, U.S. wanting to do something both real and symbolic to proclaim God is God indeed, regardless of politics, economics and the future.

Wanting to share that the message of world communion and unity were more powerful than world conflict. The main founder of World Wide Communion Dr. Hugh Kerr said, "The concept spread very slowly at the start. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense."

They designed it to be comfortably used by all known denominations, not just Presbyterians. And churches of many nations and denominations began celebrating World Communion, now throughout the world, first Sunday of October. Special offerings are usually taken. When observances began in the 1940s, offerings were for overseas relief efforts, especially war-affected Eastern Europe.

Sunday Saipan Methodists' joint offering, as has often been, was for Guma Esperansa, Saipan's shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence. Shelter staff has shared this violence can occur among all religions, non-religions, nationalities and cultures.

Churches usually designate World Communion offerings for ones affected by violence, neglect, natural disasters, poverty or for other works of peace. ***(PR)***

Koblerville Neighborhood Watch calls for volunteers for cemetery cleanup

CLARISSA V. DAVID

New members of the Neighborhood Watch Task Force take their oath from Chief Justice Miguel Demapan in a ceremony last Sept. 17 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building in Susupe.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Koblerville Neighborhood Watch Task Force chair Rose Ada-Hocog is looking for volunteers to help clean up the Chalan Kanoa public cemetery.

The cleanup is scheduled on Saturday from 7am to 4pm.

"We're calling for our members and other volunteers to help clean up the entire area of the cemetery in preparation for All Souls' Day," said Hocog during Angel Ray Ray's donation to the Koblerville Center on Tuesday.

Hocog told *Saipan Tribune* that this is the first community effort to cleanup not just one's personal plot space but the rest of the cemetery.

She said private individuals who have cleaning equipment such as bush cutters are encouraged to volunteer and bring their equipment.

Hocog said those who do not have equipment are still very much welcome to take part in the cleanup effort in time for the holiday commemorating departed loved ones.

According to Hocog, the Rectify Car Club has already confirmed their participation in Saturday's cleanup.

Hocog said parolees of the Department of Public Safety are also scheduled to help with the cleanup as part of their community service.

The neighborhood watch leader expressed hope that more volunteers will participate in the cleanup of the public cemetery.

"This is the time for everyone to come together, especially with the government shutdown," said Hocog, adding that the cleanup of the cemetery is one less worry out of the minds of people who have loved ones laid to rest in the public cemetery.

Hocog said they welcome donations from private businesses and individuals such as fuel for the bush cutters, water, and food for the participants.

"We're poor in funds but rich in love," Hocog added.

For donations or more information, contact Hocog at 287-0818.

CRA to host a congressional debate/forum

The Commonwealth Retirement Association is hosting a public debate/forum for the four candidates running for the position of CNMI congressional representative.

The debate/forum is scheduled at 6pm on Tuesday, Oct. 12, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The group urges all its members to attend to wrap up the unfinished business from the last general meeting on Sept. 23.

There will be ground rules for the forum, as follows:

■ No promotional materials on hats, shirts, banners, pins, and any other campaign materials inside the Multi-Purpose Center.

■ Cell phones must be turned off or on vibrate mode. Do not use your cell phone inside the meeting area.

■ Do not applaud the candidates during the forum/debate. The moderator will tell the audience when to applaud the candidates.

■ No alcohol, smoking and betel nut chewing inside the building.

Although the debate/forum is free, donation is encouraged to assist the Commonwealth Retirement Association in its activities.

The group is urging the members to attend the debate/forum and "hear the messages directly from the four candidates." ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building • P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-11-005

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for its a Administrative and Operation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The specification may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-005, Lease of Office Space"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM, (CST) local time on **November 05, 2010**. Late submission will not be considered.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CST) local time on November 01, 2010 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

/s/ **ABE U. MALAE**
Acting Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

Northern Marianas College
SO-297 CLUB
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

House Legislative Initiative 16-18

House Legislative Initiative 16-18 proposes to amend Article XI, Section 5(g) of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the Department of Public Lands to use up to twenty percent of its revenue to pay and satisfy land compensation claims; and for other purposes. The legislature states that the CNMI government has taken land from owners for public purposes such as roads and highways and has yet to reimburse over 100 land compensation claims. The legislature further states that it is the Department of Public Lands that receives money from public land leases, permits and other uses. Therefore because of this role, DPL should use twenty percent of its revenue to pay and satisfy land compensation claims as provided by law.

Pros:

- *The proposed amendment attempts to ensure that land owners who have not been compensated for their land claims will be compensated.*
- *By requiring DPL to use 20% of their revenue to pay land compensation, the central government's liability will decrease.*
- *This provision identifies a source of money that is related to public lands to be used for payment for private lands that have been acquired for public use.*
- *It ensures a continued stream of money to Marianas Public Land Trust by limiting the amount that can be used to satisfy land claims to twenty percent of the revenue.*

Cons:

- *Although the provision authorizes the possible use of income from public lands, it does not require that such income be used or that any land compensation claim actually be paid.*
- *Requiring DPL to use 20% of their revenues for land compensation reduces resources that could be used for its operations.*
- *This proposed amendment will affect the amount of money that is put into Marianas Public Land Trust every year.*
- *The proposed amendment does not limit land compensation claims from being addressed by DPL and not the central government.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-18 ha propopone na para u amenda i Attikulu XI, Seksiona 5(g) gi Konstitusion CNMI na para u åturisa i Dipattamenton Tano' Pupbliku na para u usa más hulo' ki i bente pot siento gi apas kontribusion-ña para u apåsi yan u na'satisfecho i land compensation claims; yan para otro manera siha. I leyeslatura ha sångan na i gobietnamenton CNMI ha mañule' tåno' ginen i manduenu para uson pupbliku siha tåt komu chålan yan highway siha yan siempre ha nana'lo más ki 100 land compensation claims. I leyeslatura más ha sångan na i Dipattamenton Tåno' Pupbliku siha na ha risibi salåppe' ginen i manmanatkikila tano' pupbliku siha, permits yan otro usu siha. Pues ayo na i che'cho' i, DPL debi na u usa i bente pot siento gi apas kontribusion-ña para u apåsi yan u satisfecho i land compensation claims komu mapribeniyi ni lai.

Fumabot:

- *I mapropone na amendasion machagi para u mana'siguru na i dueñon tåno' siha ni ti manma'apåsi para i claim tano'-ñiha siempre manma'apåsi.*
- *Ginen i dinimåndan i DPL na para u usa 20% gi iyon-ñiha revenue para u ma'apåsi i land compensation, i central government's liability na para u tunok.*
- *Este na probension ha aidenfika i hale' salåppe' ni u machule' yan i tano' pupbliku siha ni para u ma'usa para åpas i private lands ni manmachule' para uson pupbliku.*
- *Ha na'siguru na ha kontinuha i stream of money para i Marianas Public Land Trust ni ha mimidi i kantidå ni siña ma'usa para u satisfecho i land claims para i bente pot siento gi revenue.*

Kinentra:

- *Maseha i probension ha åturisa muna'pusipbli i ma'usan i suetdo ginen i tano' pupbliku siha, ti ha nisisita i guaha na suetdo para u usa pat ni håfa na land compensation claim gi minagåhet na para u ma'apåsi.*
- *Dinimånda i DPL na para u usa i 20% gi iyo-ña na revenue para i land compensation ni ha ribåha i resources ni siña ma'usa para i operasion siha.*
- *Este i mapropone na amendasion para u inafekta i kantidå na salåppe' ni mapo'lu gi Marianas Land Trust kada såkkan.*
- *I mapropone na amendasion ti minidi i land compensation claims kontra i mayå'hon-ña ginen i DPL yan ti i central government.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-18 ekke pomwoli ebwe siweli Article XI, Talil 5(g) mellól CNMI Allégh Lapalap igha ebwe ngálleey bwángil Department of Public Lands (Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap) ebwe yáali twenty percent salapial ebwe abwóssuw me asefáali salaapial falúw kka rekke tingór; me bwal akkáaw pomwol. Sángi Sów Ffééról Allégh nge ekke apasa bwe CNMI government e bwughi faluweer aramas bwelle wiiseer toulap (public purposes) sibwe ira yaal me esáál kke asefáali ngáliir aramas salaapial falúweer iye ebwe yoor ebwughúw schóóy tingór. Sów Ffééról Allégh (Legislature) ebwal sóbweey yaal kke apasa bwe Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands) e ghal bwughi salaapial falúweer toulap (Public Land) ikka e ghal akkilaalo, lisensia me akkáaw angaangal. Iwe bwelle igha yaal angaang, DPL ebwe yáayá twenty percent salaapial reel ebwe abwós me asefáali salaapial falúweer aramas ikka rekke tingór igha e alléghewow.

GHATCHÚL:

- *Pomwol lliwel yeel ebwe alughulugh (ensure) bwe salaapial falÚw kka falúweer aramas ikka resáál abwósuur nge rebwe asefáali ngáliir.*
- *Ngáre re mweiti ngáli DPL ebwe yaali 20% salaapial igha ebwe abwós me abwóssuw salaapial falúw, bwángil central government essóbw lap.*
- *Aweewe yeel ebwe ghut salaapial iye eghil ngáli falúweer toulap (public lands) bwe ebwe abwóssuw private lands kka toulap rekke yáayá..*
- *Ebwe alughulugh bwe ebwe sóbwósóbw toolongol salaapi llól Marianas Public Land ngáre re afelli llapal abwóssul faluweer toulap ye rekke tingór sángi twenty percent.*

NNGÓWAL:

- *Bwelle igha bwángil aweewe yeel ebwe yáali salaapial public lands, nge ese pirisisu rebwe yáali salaapial me alongal land compensation (abwóssul faluw) ebwe abwós.*
- *Ngáre re mweiti ngáli PDL ebwe yáali 20% salaapial reel abwóssul falúw, e fischelitiw resources (alillis) ye emmwel rebwe yáali ngáli an gaang. (operation).*
- *Pomwol ssiwel yeel ebwe aweiresi llapal salaapi ye e atotoolong llól Marianas Public Land Trust alongal ráágh*
- *Pomwol ssiwel nge essóbw aighúgh salaapial falúw kka rekke tingór iye toowow mereel DPL me ese toolong central government.*

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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House Legislative Initiative 17-1

This legislative initiative amends Article X of the CNMI Constitution by adding a new section. The new provision authorizes the Commonwealth to issue pension obligation bonds (POBs). A POB is defined as a taxable bond issued by a state or local government that sponsors a pension plan to:

(1) Pay a portion or all of a pension plan's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued liability (UAAL) which is the present value shortfall between the future benefit owed to employees and the resources available to pay such benefits when due; and/or
(2) Pay a plan's normal contributions (present value of benefits earned by current employees).

Unlike regular bonds where the proceeds can be used by the state for a variety of reasons, a POB can only be used for the purpose intended. Here, the legislature has found that as a result of the judgment against the government owed to the Retirement Fund, "... it is necessary and proper to resolve the [on-going litigation] by authorizing the issuance of pension obligation bonds to generate revenues immediately which the Commonwealth can repay over time, as the bonds mature, thus lessening the immediate fiscal impact on the Commonwealth."

This proposed amendment allows the CNMI Government to issue a POB to aid in funding the retirement fund. To issue a POB, the initiative provides that the CNMI Government must first determine how much of the UAAL the government is looking to reduce. The legislature limits the amount of the POB by stating it is not to exceed "the Commonwealth's actuarially determined unfunded accrued liability to the Retirement Fund." Accordingly, this initiative seeks to amend the Constitution to allow the CNMI to incur a debt by issuing a POB to exceed 10% of the aggregate assessed valuation of the real property in the CNMI and to authorize the debt to be incurred for investment purposes. Next, the CNMI Government must hire an investment bank (or a group of investment banks) who will try to sell the bond to investors and once sold those bond proceeds will be provided to the Retirement Fund. The Retirement Fund will then invest the proceeds along with their current invested assets with the goal of earning a return on investments that is greater than the repayment interest rate or the borrowing cost. The CNMI Government will then be responsible for making payments on the bond.

Este na legislative initiative ha amenda i Attikulu X gi Konstitusion CNMI ni manå'yi nuebu na seksiona. I nuebu na probension ha åturisa i Commonwealth para u laknos i pension obligation bonds (POBs). I POB ha defina komu taxable bond ni malaknos ginen i state pat local government ni ini-sponsor siha ni pension plan para:

(1) Apåsi palu pat todu i pension plan's Unfunded Actuarial Accrued liabity (UAAL) ni prinisenta i bålen i shortfall gi entalo' i mamamaila' na benefisio ni madibi i emple'ao siha yan i resources ni guaha ni para u ma'apåsi i benefisio siha ni manmadibi; yan/pat
(2) I naturåt na plånon åpas kontribusion siha (gi prisente na presio gi benefisio siha ni magånna ginen i prisente na emple'ao siha).

Achuk i regulåt na bonds nai gaige i proceeds siña manma'usa ginen i state para todu klåsen rason siha, i POB siña manma'usa para i ma'intensiona na manera. Guini, i leyes latura ha sodda' na komu i resutta ginen i huisio kontra i gobietnamento madibi guatu i Fondon Ritiru, ". . . ya nisisårio yan propiu na para u masåtba i [on-going litigation] ginen i ma'åturirisa i issuance of pension obligation bonds para u fanrikohi ensigidas salåppe' siha ni i Commonwealth siña ha ta'lon umapåsi chaddek, komu i bonds mature, siempre i menus i immediate fiscal impact gi Commonwealth."

Este i mapropone na amendasion ha sedi i Gobietnamenton CNMI na para u laknos i POB para u inayuda gi fumondo i fondon ritiru. Para u laknos i POB, i initiative ha pribeniyi na i Gobietnamenton CNMI debi na finene'na u detitmina kuånto gi i UAAL i gobietnamento ha a'atan para u ribåha. I leyeslatura ha midi i kantidå gi POB ni ha såsangan na ti u inipos i "Commonwealth actuarially ni ha detitmina i unfunded accrued liability para i Fondon Ritiru." Sigun, este na initiative ha aligao para u amenda i Konstitusion ni para u sedi i CNMI para u incur i dibi ni para u laknos i POB ni para u inipos dies (10) pot siento gi aggregated assessed valuation gi i real property gi halom i CNMI yan para u åturisa i dibi na para u incurred para i hinangain investment siha. Otro, i Gobietnamenton CNMI debi na u fangonne' investment bank (pat gurupon investment banks) anai siña machagi mambende bond para i investors yan komu mabende ayo todu na bond proceeds siempre prinibeniyi guatu gi Fondon Ritiru. I Fondon Ritiru para u invest despues i proceeds yan i iyon-ñiha current invested assets yan i diniseha gi ginana gi despues i investment siha ni takkilo'ña ki ni i repayment interest rate pat i gåston inayao. I Gobietnamenton CNMI para u responsåpble na mafa'titinas i apas gi i bond.

Legislative initiative yeel ebwe siweli Article X mellól CNMI Allégh Lapalap ngáre re aschuulong talil ye e ffé. Aweewe ye e ffé nge e ngálleey bwángil Commonwealth ebwe isisiwow pension obligation bonds (POBs). Faal POB nge taxable bond iye e toowow mereel state me local government iye e amwaschú plóónol salaapi igha ebwe:

(1) Abwóssuw eghús me ngáre alongal plóónol Unfunded Actuarial Accrued liaility (UAAL) llapal ye ese ghówuta ighila leefilal schóóy angaang igha resáál kke abwóssuur me alillis ye ebwe abwóssuur benefits ngáre aa atol; me ngáre
(2) Abwóssuw schéschéél plóónol salaapi ((llapal benefisio ye eyoor mereel schóóy angaang kka ighila).

Ese weewee me regular bond igha essogh tappal aweewe ye ebwe mwir sángi, POB schagh mille emmwel ebwe yááyá reel meeta re mángi fischi. Igheey, Sów Ffééról Allégh nge aa schuungi bwe mwirilóól aweewel government igha eyoor diibil mereel Retirement Fund, "...e pirisisu me efil rebwe ammwelaaló (on-going litigation) ngáre re kkeyil ngálleey pension obligation bonds bwe ebwe fféér salaapi bwelle Commonwealth ebwe abwós mweteló mmwal, ngáre schagh bond ghatcheló, ebwe mescheragheló weiresil fiscal impact mellól Commonwealth."

Pomwol lliwel nge e lighiti ngáli CNMI Government ebwe atoowowu POB igha ebwe alillisilong salaapial retirement fund. Reel isisiwowul POB, eyoorátá plóóno yeel bwe ipigh CNMI Government ebwe ghuleey fitoow UAAL, ye gobenno ekke amweri bwe ebwe fischelitiw. Sów Ffééról Allégh nge e fischeli llapal POB, igha ekke ira bwe essóbw luuló " Commonwealth actuarially determined unfunded accrued to the Retirement Fund." Schéschéél, plóóno yeel nge ekke amweri ngare ebwe siweli Allegh Lapalap (Constitution) igha ebwe lighiti ngáli CNMI ebwe amwela diibil ngáre e isisiwow POB iye ebwe aluuló 10% reel llapal méél falúw mellól CNMI me mweiti ngáli diibi ebwe ammwela kkapasal investment. Bwal eew, CNMI Government ebwe umwumw investment bank (me ngáre mwiischil investment banks) iye ebwe amééw ngáli bond ngáli investors me ngáre schagh aa améémé ngáli fááráághil bond ebwal ayoora ngáli Retirement Fund. Retirment Fund ebwe alailayú salaapial fengál me llapal salaapial ighila me kkapasal (goal) igha ekke bweibwogh interest mereel repayment sángi mwolofit (borrowing cost). Ebwe toowow nge CNMI Government ebwele abwóssuw bond.

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House Legislative Initiative 16-13

House legislative Initiative 16-13 proposes to amend Article III, section 20 of the NMI Constitution. The legislature has found that as a result of the declining economy and the increase in retirement benefits for its members as listed in their findings, the CNMI government has been unable to make necessary contributions to the Retirement Fund. The result of the CNMI government's diminished contributions has resulted in the Retirement Fund not being fully funded. Accordingly, the legislature finds that it is necessary to prevent the CNMI legislature from increasing benefits to members of the Retirement fund until the CNMI government has either satisfied its obligations to the Fund or the system is fully funded.

Pros:

- *This initiative attempts to ensure the protection of the current benefits that the Retirees and active members have and expect.*
- *By ensuring that the legislature cannot increase benefits to the retirement fund, the government's liability will not be further increased.*
- *This amendment attempts to prevent further harm to the Retirement fund from the pressure of providing greater benefits to its members.*

Cons:

- *This proposed amendment doesn't allow for the "what if situations" when benefits in certain areas may need to be adjusted or increased.*
- *The initiative doesn't define what satisfying government obligations means and therefore, it leaves room for interpretation as to when benefits can be increased.*
- *The initiative allows for new benefits to retirement members once either obligations have been satisfied or the system is fully funded, however if obligations have been satisfied but the Retirement fund is not fully funded, new liabilities could be created.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-13 ha propone para u amenda i Attikulu III, gi seksiona 20 gi Konstitusion NMI. I leyeslatura ha sodda' na komu i resutta na tumutunuk i ekonomia yan kumahulo' i benefisio gi ritiru para i miembro-ña siha komu malista gi sinedda'-ñiha, i gobietnamenton CNMI hagas ha' ti ha na'siña fuma'tinas i kontribusion siha guatu para i Fondon Ritiru. I resutta gi gobietnamenton CNMI mumenus i kontribusion siha ni ha na'annok gi halom i Fondon Ritiru na ti kabåles mafondo. Sigun, i leyeslatura ha sodda' na nisisårio na u atåha i leyeslaturan CNMI kontra u ma'umenta i benifisio siha para i todu i miembron i Fondon Ritiru estaki i gobietnamenton CNMI ha pat ha na'satisfecho i obligasion siha para i Fondo pat i sistema u mana'kabåles fumondo.

Fumabot:

- *Este na initiative ha chagi na para u na'siguru i proteksion i prisente na benefisio siha na i ritirão yan i manmachocho'cho' na miembr siha manggai yan ma'ekspekta.*
- *U mana'siguru na i leyeslatura ti siña ha håtsa i benefisio siha para i fondon ritiru, i liability gi gobietnamento ti u masigi mahåtsa.*
- *Este na amendasion ha chagi para u atåha mås i tinailayi para i fondon Ritiru ginen i hineño' gi prinebibiyi mås benefisio para i miembro-ña siha.*

Kinentra:

- *Este i mapropone na amendasion ti ha sedi para i "Håfa yanggen i sichuasion" yanggen ngai'an i benefisio siha gi palu na manera siña manesisita para u na'måolek pat u håtsa.*
- *I Initiative ti ha defina i håfa muna'satisfefecho i obligasion i gobietnamento siha ayo na rason, na nina'i kåmpo para u mapula' komu para ngai'an nai siña ma'umenta i benefisio siha.*
- *I Initiative ha sedi para i nuebu na benefisio para i miembron i ritiru siha un biåhi pat i obligasion siha na mansatisfecho pat i sistema mafondo kabåles, lão yanggen i obligasion mansatisfecho lão i fondon Ritiru ti mafondo kabåles, i nuebu na liabilities siña mafa'tinas.*

House Legislative Initiative 16-13 ekke pomwoli ebwe siweli Article III, Talil 20 mellól Allegh Lapalap.Sów Ffééról Allégh nge ebwal schuungi bwelle weiresil reel ekkonomia me sássáril benefisio ngáliir membro kka re elo llól lista, CNMI government nge esáál kke atotoolong salaapial llól Retirement Fund. Bwelle igha ese kke ghówutá salaapial gobenno, ebwal kke aweiresi fundool Retirement Fund. Schéschéél, Sów Ffééról Allégh e schuungi bwe e pirisisu bwe CNMI legislature ebwe amweri fischi sássáril benefisio ngáliir membrool Retirement Fund, ngáre schagh CNMI government e féérú yaal tarabwaagho reel ebwe abwóssuuw me bwuley yeel aa aghówulong salaapial.

GHATCHÚL:

- *Plóóno yeel ebwe alughulugh bwe aa yoor ammwelil benefisio ye ighila igha membrool Schóóy Aséésé (Retirees) me schóóy angaang kka ighila.*
- *Ngáre re alughulugh bwe sów ffééról allégh essóbw sárághi benefisio ngáli retirement fund, bwángil gobenno nge essóbw lapaló.*
- *Lliwel yeel ebwe afelli Retirement Fund bwe essóbw yoor fitighoghol bwelle sássáril benefisio ngáliir membro.*

NNGÓWAL:

- *Pomwol ssiwel nge essóbw lighiti ngáli ("what if situations") ngáre benefissio mellól akkááw bwuley re tipeli ebwe ssiwel (adjusted) mesássár.*
- *Plóóno yeel nge ese apasa meeta weweel "satisfying government obligation" me bwal eew, aa yoor atol aweewe, ileet schóóy benefissio rebwe sássár.*
- *Plóóno yeel ebwe alisiir schóóy benefissio kka re fféélong llól membrool retirement ngáre schagh aa yoor salaapial me aa ghówulong salaapial system, bwal eew ngáre obligation yeel e abwósóló nge Retirement fund ese ghówulong fundool, ebwe yoor eew angaangal ye e ffé.*

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10 airline tickets at stake at Club 200

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 40 raffle prizes, including 10 airline tickets, are up for grabs at the 22nd Annual American Red Cross Club 200 event slated for Oct. 23.

The NMI chapter of the humanitarian organization will be in full Swingin' 60's Saipan Style for the annual fundraiser to be held at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Club 200, the local Red Cross chapter's biggest fundraising gala, will relive the '60s era of mods, rockers, and hippies this year.

"It's going to be the best party of the year and it will all be about the '60s," Bob Coldeen of the Club 200 committee told Saipan Chamber of Commerce members Wednesday.

Coldeen said there will be about 32 video presentations about the '60s era to be featured at the event, including those of music legends Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and the Grateful Dead.

In an interview, American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh said Jojo Camacho of Marpac will spin a lot of great music to add to the night's entertainment.

Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune* that on top of the grand prize of $15,000, there will be four airline tickets from Continental Airlines and six from Delta Air Lines.

"Our corporate support this year has been pretty solid. The airlines have kicked in like they normally do. We've gotten some really good support from them," he said.

Aside from the airline companies, Hirsh said they also have the support of DFS Galleria. He said DFS has informed them that there are designer labels that have provided merchandise for their silent auction.

Hirsh said they also plan to include various certificates for the silent auction.

The executive director said they expect a surge on ticket purchase as the event draws near. "Everyone is a little bit nervous because we all understand what's happening in the local economy," he said.

Despite this, Hirsh said they remain hopeful that people will still buy tickets to help support the organization's programs and activities.

"If you can afford it, then please support us. People know the Red Cross very well here. We're very trusted," he said.

According to Hirsh, the Club 200 event is a unique fundraising dinner since its open for everybody.

"Everybody from all walks of life really enjoy our event. There's a lot of good entertainment, great food, open bar, and of course the entertainment we got scheduled for the evening," said Hirsh.

For tickets or more information, call the American Red Cross NMI Chapter at 234-3459.

Asia Pacific Hotels Adopt-a-Bin on Mt. Tapochao

After a month of planning, the managers and staff of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Century Hotel, and Saipan Grand Hotel gladly stood in the rain last Sept 28 to witness the installation of their new MINA Adopt-a-Bin on Mt. Tapochao.

"Tourism is our island's foremost industry and the backbone of the CNMI's economy. Our companies are committed to sustaining its future. We thought, 'What better way than protecting Saipan's highest peak, one of our most visited scenic views,'" said Lina Dimaano, vice president for finance of Tan Holdings and the project chairman of the company' Going Green initiatives.

"The overlook also holds a special place in many residents' hearts. We hope that by placing bins here, we will encourage visitors to do their share by keeping this beautiful overlook clean for everyone to enjoy," she added.

The bins were hauled up a heavily rutted road and placed in the parking area by Ericco Enterprises, the company contracted by MINA to provide weekly trash collection services to this and 13 other sites. Convenient public mixed waste and recycling bins can now be found at 14 sites, including Wing Beach, Garapan Fishing Base, 13 Fishermen Monument, Kilili Beach, Gilbet C. Ada Gymnasium, Susupe Beach Park, Sugar Dock, Obyan Beach, Laolao Beach, Marine Beach, and now, Mt. Tapochao.

"This latest installation ties Saipan's ridges to its reefs and stands as a reminder to all that what we do on land affects our ocean," said MINA executive director Sam Sablan. "Next year, we expect to continue the MINA Adopt-a-Bin Program, as well as several other environmental stewardship projects."

"I think self-awareness is a key element of stewardship. This means consciously choosing to do what is right for the environment, even when it may be a bit inconvenient. The smallest task, like picking up litter instead of stepping over it, sends a powerful message to those around you. It's important to protect the one thing that we can never replace —Mother Earth," he said.

For more information about MINA's Adopt-a-Bin Program and other environmental projects, visit www.minapacific.org or contact 233-Reef, or kathyjuk@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings officers led by president and CEO Jerry Tan, left, pose with a MINA representative during the turnover of bins on Mt. Tapochao.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mixed waste and recycling bins on Mt. Tapochao.

Water interruption in Lower Base and Tanapag today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled water interruption in the Lower Base and Tanapag areas today.

A contractor for the Water Task Force will be replacing inoperable valves on the CUC water system in the Sadog Tasi vicinity at the intersection of Isa Drive and Woosch intersection.

The work will commence at 8am and is expected to be completed by 3pm. During the connection period, the Lower Base from Isa Drive to Tanapag will be out of water. The new valves will provide CUC with improved operational flexibility.

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water. Rainwater catchment systems/ water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks. All water leaks (sink, faucets, showers, hoses) must be fixed to save water and money.

The CUC regrets this inconvenience. ***(PR)***

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AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
for the
Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements
AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69 (Project No. CPA-SA-011-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 8, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. ~~Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.~~

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

Date: September 29, 2010

Dialogue on CDA Matters

hosted by:
CDA Board of Directors

Friday, October 15, 2010
American Memorial Park
Visitor Center
9:00am - 3:30pm

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Christy or Espie at the Commonwealth Development Authority at 234-6245 or 234-7145

Business

Businesses get reprieve from 2011 delay in wage increase

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The president of the largest business organization in the CNMI said the delay on the minimum wage increase for 2011 serves as a one-year reprieve for the business community.

"Hopefully, it will give our economy enough breathing room so that we have time to renew our efforts to work with the government and assist in getting this community's economy back on track," wrote Douglas Brennan in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

On Sept. 30, President Obama signed into law H.R. 3940, now Public Law 111-244, which allows for the delay on the scheduled minimum wage increases in the CNMI and in American Samoa.

A federal law signed in 2007 requires a yearly 50-cent increase in the CNMI's minimum wage until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

The minimum wage in the CNMI increased from $4.55 an hour to $5.05 an hour last Sept. 30. Next year's 50-cent increase will be skipped, and will resume in 2012.

Brennan

PL 111-244 also requires the assessment on the impact of the minimum wage increase implementation by Sept. 1, 2011 and subsequent assessments by April 1, 2013 and every two years thereafter.

Brennan recognized the hard work of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan and the support of the Chamber and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Brennan said the minimum wage in the CNMI has increased by 66 percent over the past three years at a time when the islands' economy is on a downward spiral.

According to Brennan, payroll is a major cost of operations both in the government and the private sector.

"In a stable economy, minimum wage increases could be absorbed, provided that businesses were expanding. As it is right now, each new minimum wage increase is costing loyal, hardworking individuals their jobs as business shrink and close," he said.

The Chamber president said the "brief reprieve" is good news for their organization and the HANMI.

"It means that at least one government recognizes that our economy is on the rocks and businesses and consumers cannot afford additional costs right now," said Brennan.

Feds: 8 touches of 'Shrek' glass hazard for kids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal regulators leaned on McDonald's to quickly recall 12 million "Shrek"-themed drinking glasses this spring because they concluded that a typical 6-year-old could be exposed to hazardous levels of the metal cadmium by touching one of the glasses just eight times in a day, according to documents obtained under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Of the four collectibles in the series tied to the hit movie "Shrek Forever After," the glass depicting the character Puss in Boots, with a predominantly orange design, prompted the recall push.

The investigatory file shows how the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission aggressively turned a tip that the glasses contained cadmium in their colored exterior designs into an assessment that the Puss in Boots glasses posed an unacceptable risk to younger kids.

It was a first-of-its-kind recall for the agency, which wasn't accustomed to testing for cadmium in glassware and had no official level at which results would represent a health hazard. Yet within a week, McDonald's had agreed to urge its customers to return all the glasses, even though the fast food giant didn't think they posed a serious health danger—and the agency thought only one from the set did.

"Staff took an approach at the time that was highly protective of children, and McDonald's took a proactive approach in conducting the recall," safety commission spokesman Scott Wolfson said in response to questions about the 124 pages from the file, many of them completely whited out, that the agency provided to The Associated Press.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Toyota steps up efforts to woo back US customers

TOKYO (AP)—Aiming to win back customer trust after its string of recalls, Toyota Motor Corp. is offering American buyers of new Toyota—and Scion-brand vehicles two years of regular scheduled maintenance and 24-hour roadside assistance for free. The plans, announced in a press release Wednesday from the automaker's U.S. headquarters in Torrance, California, makes permanent a program that started this spring. The move is aimed at restoring customer confidence after the Japanese automaker recalled more than 10 million vehicles worldwide over the last year for a wide range of problems, including gas pedals that got stuck.

Bailout watchdog mostly praises fund manager picks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Treasury Department was thorough and fair in picking firms to invest bailout money, a new watchdog report says. Treasury prevented possible conflicts of interest and safeguarded taxpayer dollars by using outside experts and careful record keeping, according to the report, issued Thursday by the special inspector general for the bailout fund. The public-private investment funds include private investments and matching funds from the $700 billion financial bailout. They buy the mortgage investments that were at the root of the financial crisis. They aimed to boost demand for those securities, which clogged bank balance sheets in the months after the financial system teetered in September 2008.

Oil hovers above $83 in Asia amid US dollar slide

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil hovered above $83 a barrel Thursday in Asia as a weak U.S. dollar fuels gains in commodity prices. Benchmark oil for November delivery was up 22 cents to $83.45 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 41 cents to settle at $83.23 on Wednesday. Oil has held above $80 over the last week amid a plunge in the dollar as investors anticipate that U.S. interest rates could head even lower if the Federal Reserve moves to buy Treasury bonds and takes other measures to lower long-term interest rates to boost the economy.

Nation

AP

Deepwater Horizon joint investigation board members David Dykes, left, and retired U.S. District Judge Wayne Andersen, center, listen to Jason Mathews while presiding over testimony from BP PLC offshore land negotiator Michael Beirne, not pictured, during joint investigation hearings held by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Bureau of Ocean Management Regulation and Enforcement in Metairie, La., Wednesday.

Panel: Gov't blocked scientists on spill estimate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration blocked efforts by government scientists to tell the public just how bad the Gulf oil spill could become and committed other missteps that raised questions about its competence and candor during the crisis, according to a commission appointed by the president to investigate the disaster.

In documents released Wednesday, the national oil spill commission's staff describes "not an incidental public relations problem" by the White House in the wake of the April 20 accident.

Among other things, the report says, the administration made erroneous early estimates of the spill's size, and President Barack Obama's senior energy adviser went on national TV and mischaracterized a government analysis by saying it showed most of the oil was "gone." The analysis actually said it could still be there.

"By initially underestimating the amount of oil flow and then, at the end of the summer, appearing to underestimate the amount of oil remaining in the Gulf, the federal government created the impression that it was either not fully competent to handle the spill or not fully candid with the American people about the scope of the problem," the report says.

High court: Does father's pain trump free speech?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court justices, in a rare public display of sympathy, strongly suggested Wednesday they would like to rule for a dead Marine's father against fundamentalist church members who picketed his son's funeral—but aren't sure they can.

Left unresolved after an hourlong argument that explored the limits of the First Amendment: Does the father's emotional pain trump the protesters' free speech rights?

The difficulty of the constitutional issue was palpable in the courtroom as the justices weighed the case of Albert Snyder. His son died in Iraq in 2006, and members of a family-dominated church in Topeka, Kan., protested at the funeral to express their view that U.S. deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq are God's punishment for American immorality and tolerance of homosexuality and abortion.

Margie Phelps, arguing the case for her family's Westboro Baptist Church, said the message of the protests at military funerals and elsewhere is, "Nation, hear this little church. If you want them to stop dying, stop sinning."

ACROSS THE NATION

Mom arrested for abducting daughter 25 years ago

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A 32-year-old Nevada woman who was unaware that her mother abducted her as a child from New Jersey inadvertently alerted authorities when the daughter tried to change her name to get married, police said Wednesday. Nancy Dunsavage Fiedler, 57, of Incline Village, was arrested Tuesday at her home near Lake Tahoe after she admitted to being the woman named on a fugitive warrant issued in New Jersey 25 years ago, the Washoe County sheriff's office said. Fiedler, who was using the alias Debbie Reed in Nevada, did not have custody of 6-year-old Eva Marie Fiedler when the two disappeared during a break in a custody hearing in August 1984 in Somerville, N.J., New Jersey prosecutors said.

NJ senator calls for anti-bully law after suicide

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey's U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (LOW'-tuhn-burg) says he'll introduce legislation requiring colleges to adopt a code of conduct that prohibits bullying and harassment following the suicide of a student whose gay sexual encounter was broadcast online. The Democrat made the announcement Wednesday at a town meeting on the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick in memory of 18-year-old freshman Tyler Clementi. Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River on Sept. 22. His death has led to nationwide soul-searching over the plight of gay teenagers.

Sheriff: Ohio mom killed 2 kids, then herself

CARROLLTON, Ohio (AP)—A woman shot and killed her two children in their beds before committing suicide Wednesday morning in their rural home, authorities said. Carroll County Sheriff Dale Williams said the woman's father notified police at around 7:30 a.m. Wednesday. The man was in the house at the time but didn't witness the shootings, the sheriff said. The shooting, which took place in a rural town about 20 miles southeast of Canton, left the 24-year-old woman and her two children—a 6-year-old girl and an 18-month-old boy—dead.

Asia

Uncertainty over US plans as war enters 10th year

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—It's make-or-break time in Afghanistan.

The war enters its 10th year Thursday, and this is no ordinary anniversary.

With extra American troops now in place, this is the critical juncture to determine if President Barack Obama's revised war stategy will work and reverse Taliban momentum.

Key players are hedging their bets, uncertain whether the Obama administration is prepared to stay for the long haul, move quickly to exit an increasingly unpopular conflict, or something in between.

Fearing that his Western allies may in the end abandon him, Afghan President Hamid Karzai has started to prepare his nation for a withdrawal of international forces by shoring up relations with neighboring Pakistan and reaching out to insurgents interested in reconciliation.

Pakistan, America's nominal ally, says it's fighting insurgents. But it still tolerates al-Qaida and Afghan Taliban militants hiding out on its soil—out of reach of U.S.-led NATO ground forces.

Public support for the war is slipping in the United States and Western Europe. Already, the Netherlands has pulled out its troops, the first NATO country to do so. The Canadians leave next.

Patience is running out here as well. Afghans are tired of the violence, increasingly resentful of foreign forces. Many wonder why their quality of life has not markedly improved when their nation has been awash in billions of dollars of foreign aid.

"NATO is here and they say they are fighting terrorism, and this is the 10th year and there is no result yet," Karzai said in an emotional speech last week. "Our sons cannot go to school because of bombs and suicide attacks."

All this is very different from the near universal international support the Bush administration enjoyed when it launched attacks on Oct. 7, 2001. The war was aimed at toppling the Taliban from power because they harbored Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders responsible for the stunning strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon less than a month earlier.

The hardline Islamic regime, which repressed women, banned music and held public executions for disloyal actions, collapsed within two months.

But looking back at the first years of the war, the effort was underfunded from the start. When the Bush administration's attention shifted to Iraq in 2003, the Taliban began to regroup. After several years of relative calm and safety, the situation in Afghanistan began to deteriorate around 2006. The Taliban have steadily gained strength since then. And bin Laden remains alive.

US official sees signs of inter-Korean engagement

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korea are showing positive signs of improving relations, a U.S. diplomat said Thursday, but he cautioned that Pyongyang has yet to indicate it is serious about moving forward on denuclearization.

The two Koreas agreed last week to hold their first reunions in a year for families divided by the Korean War, while South Korea is considering a proposal by North Korea to hold talks aimed at restarting a stalled joint tourism venture.

Military tensions between the two sides remain high over the March sinking of a South Korean warship that Seoul and Washington blame on North Korea, which Pyongyang denies.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell, on a brief visit to Seoul to meet South Korean officials, said that the two Koreas must resume dialogue.

"The first step has to be re-engagement between North Korea and South Korea," Campbell told reporters Thursday, noting "some signs of dialogue, engagement between North and South Koreas and we encourage that process to continue."

Campbell also called on North Korea to live up to its promises to give up its nuclear programs.

"I think we're also looking for a clear and demonstrable commitment on the part of the North Koreans to fulfill their commitments that they made on denuclearization in 2005," he added, referring to an agreement made in six-nation negotiations.

Campbell was in Seoul a week after North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's third son, Kim Jong Un, was promoted to top military and ruling party posts, signaling he is in line to succeed his ailing father.

Campbell's visit also came a day after an adviser to South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said in published comments that the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear program has reached an "extremely dangerous level."

ASIAN BRIEFS

US apologizes for attack on Pakistani soldiers

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The U.S. apologized Wednesday for a recent helicopter attack that killed two Pakistani soldiers at an outpost near the Afghan border, saying American pilots mistook the soldiers for insurgents they were pursuing. The apology, which came after a joint investigation, could pave the way for Pakistan to reopen a key border crossing that NATO uses to ship goods into landlocked Afghanistan. Pakistan closed the crossing to NATO supply convoys in apparent reaction to the Sept. 30 incident. Suspected militants have taken advantage of the impasse to launch attacks against stranded or rerouted trucks, including two Wednesday where gunmen torched at least 55 fuel tankers and killed a driver.

Scientists find new species in Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY (AP)—A thumbnail-sized frog with a long snout, a brilliant green katydid with bright pink eyes and a mouse with a white-tipped tail are among 200 species scientists have discovered in the remote mountains of Papua New Guinea. The findings were unveiled this week by Washington D.C.-based Conservation International, whose researchers discovered a kaleidoscopic array of critters during two expeditions to the South Pacific island nation in 2009. Among the finds: 24 frog species, scores of spiders and around 100 insects including ants and dragonflies that appear to have never been described in scientific literature before, the conservation group said.

Baby dies after monkey snatches it from M'sia home

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—News reports in Malaysia say a newborn baby has died after being snatched by a monkey from a family's living room. The Star and the New Straits Times report that the body of the four-day-old baby was found outside the home in central Negri Sembilan state Wednesday. The baby, who had been left alone in the room, had bite marks on her neck and face. The father was quoted as saying a macaque monkey had been seen roaming near the house. State wildlife official Ishak Muhamad reportedly says the monkey may have been attracted by a female pet monkey the family kept in a cage.

World

Chile mine engineers weigh danger of the encasing shaft

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—It's the nightmare scenario: The earth shifts just as a miner is being pulled to safety, jamming his escape capsule somewhere between the surface and the underground cavern where 33 men have waited for two months to be rescued.

A partial collapse in the shaft carved through nearly a half-mile of rock could trap the man in a spot where even the most powerful drills couldn't free him.

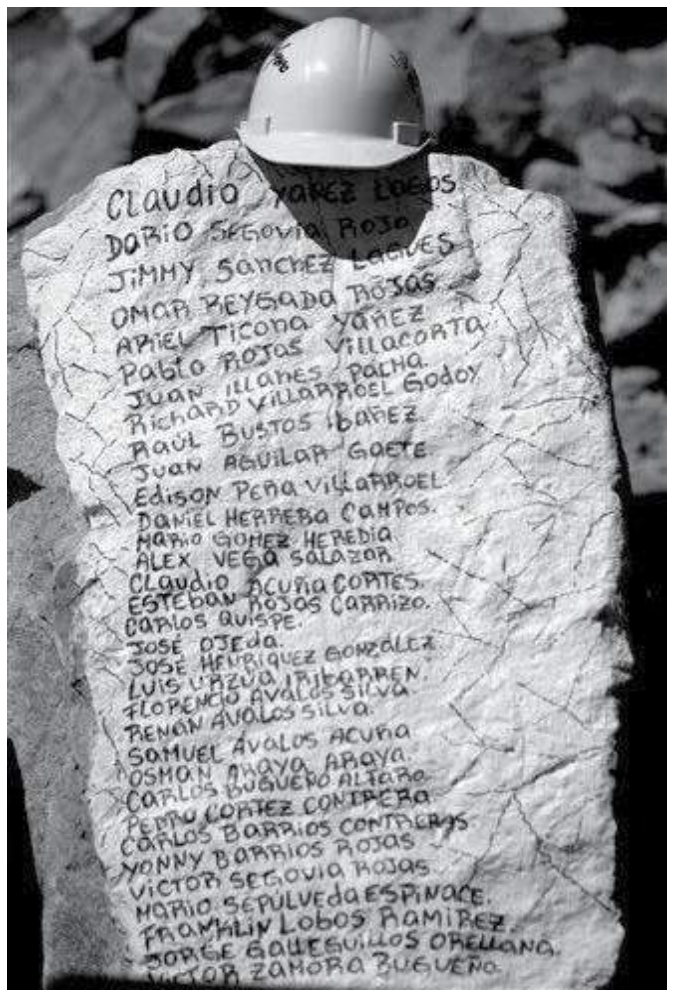
With the rescue drill likely to reach the men by Friday, Chile's government is planning to guard against such a disaster by inserting steel pipe that can withstand tons of pressure into the shaft, and giving the miners a smooth, ride up to safety.

But some experts fear that inserting the pipe is risky in itself.

Engineers must determine whether they can push the 40-foot (12-meter) sections of pipe through curves in the shaft without having the welds crack. An accident could send tons of steel hurtling downwards or cause a section to get stuck part way down, blocking an exit route that has taken more than a month to drill.

Rescue coordinator Rene Aguilar, among the most cautious of those involved, would put in the pipe. He said it would provide a virtually risk-free ride.

"The first choice is to put the casing," Aguilar said Wednesday, speaking in English. "We have to put the casing at least for the first 100 meters.



AP

A helmet sits on a rock covered with the names of the 33 miners trapped in the collapsed San Jose mine at a camp where relatives wait for news outside the mine in Copiapo, Chile, Wednesday Oct. 6, 2010.

France warns of high terror risk in Britain

PARIS (AP)—France's Foreign Ministry is warning French travelers of a high terrorism risk in Britain, asking them to be watchful in public transport and busy tourist areas across the English Channel.

A message posted on the ministry's Web site late Tuesday said British authorities have warned that "the level of terrorist threat is very high in the United Kingdom, and the risk of an attack is very likely." The ministry said France wanted to pass those concerns on to French citizens, many of whom live in Britain or travel there frequently.

France has not issued any recent warnings for other countries in Europe, though officials have repeatedly insisted that the threat is high in France as well and have boosted security at busy tourist sites such as Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

France and Britain are among many European countries that have stepped up terrorism alert vigilance recently. Germany, meanwhile, says it remains watchful but that there is no reason to be "alarmist."

WORLD BRIEFS

Puerto Rico police swept up in US corruption probe

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Hundreds of FBI agents flew into Puerto Rico to round up dozens of police officers accused of aiding drug traffickers Wednesday—one of the darkest days yet for a force tarnished by recent allegations of brutality, discrimination and incompetence. In pre-dawn raids, about 1,000 federal agents swept up about 130 people, including nearly 90 law enforcement officers accused of providing security to drug dealers on a U.S. territory where police are struggling to curb spiraling crime and rampant drug smuggling. U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said it was the largest police corruption investigation in the FBI's history.

Israeli premier weighing new settlement curbs

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Israel's prime minister has been sounding out key Cabinet members on extending a freeze on new construction in West Bank settlements in hopes of keeping peace talks with the Palestinians alive, but he is encountering stiff resistance, Israeli officials said Wednesday. In Ramallah, key members of the Palestinian leadership—in an increasingly tense waiting mode—expressed optimism that an extension nonetheless was imminent. The future of President Barack Obama's ambitious Mideast peace effort remained uncertain Wednesday as the U.S. pressed ahead with efforts to broker a compromise over the settlement issue, which has threatened to derail negotiations just a month after they were launched at the White House.

Sludge-hit Hungarian villagers demand compensation

KOLONTAR, Hungary (AP)—There was no stopping the avalanche of toxic red sludge: It smashed through the door of Kati Holczer's house, trapping the mother and her toddler in a sea of caustic waste. She saved her 3-year-old son, Bence, by placing him on a sofa that was floating in the muck. Then she called her husband Balazs, who was working in Austria, to say goodbye. "We're going to die," she told him, chest-deep in the acrid mud.

Off the Wall

Ohio woman pretended to be boy to date teen girl

AP

Patricia Dye, 31, of Franklin, Ohio, sits Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, in Warren County Juvenile Court, as she pleaded guilty to contributing to the delinquency of a child, sexual imposition and attempted sexual imposition of a 16-year-old Springboro girl, after Dye posed as a teenage boy.

CINCINNATI (AP)—A 31-year-old woman who posed as a teenage boy, cutting her hair and using male aliases, so she could date teenage girls pleaded guilty Wednesday and was sentenced to six months in jail.

Patricia Dye, of Franklin, also was ordered her to undergo a mental health evaluation and follow any recommended treatment.

Prosecutors have said Dye tricked at least two teenage girls into dating her, although charges were filed in connection with only one, a 16-year-old. She was arrested in June after the girl ran away from home for a few days and stayed with Dye for at least part of that time, authorities said.

Dye pleaded guilty Wednesday to three misdemeanor charges: sexual imposition, attempted sexual imposition and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Warren County Juvenile Court Judge Mike Powell in Lebanon, about 25 miles north of Cincinnati, sentenced Dye to jail and put her on probation for two years. He also ordered Dye not to have contact with the victim or the victim's family and classified her as a sexual offender, which requires her to register with authorities every six months for 15 years.

"This woman victimized a young girl and needed to be punished for her actions," Chief Assistant Prosecutor Bruce McGary said in a statement Wednesday. "Equally important is that we monitor and make sure that Ms. Dye does not have any victims in the future."

A statement from the 16-year-old victim was read in court, the Dayton Daily News reported.

"I'm even scared to walk my dog," she said in the statement. "I used to trust people. Now I don't."

Dye's attorney, Rob Kaufman, said he had pushed for the mental health evaluation and potential treatment. His client feels remorse and "has really learned from this experience," he told The Associated Press.

"It was the first time she was ever in jail, and I don't believe she would ever get in trouble again," Kaufman said. "This has really had a big impact on her."

Dye's parents are in poor health, and she is looking forward to getting out of jail and being with them again, Kaufman said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Good Samaritan not such a helper

WAITE PARK, Minn. (AP)—Police in central Minnesota said a man who claimed he was assaulted and robbed while helping two people was lying. Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud said the 34-year-old Cold Spring man admitted to making the crime up, but it's unclear why. The man had originally said he stopped Sept. 23 to help two men changing a flat tire at Stearns County roads 137 and 6, but instead the two men hit him in the head with a tire iron and robbed him. Bentrud said the investigator found inconsistencies in the story Tuesday. He said the man's injuries were self-inflicted and the scene was staged. The St. Cloud Times reported that the man faces a possible charge of filing a false police report.

Last puff: S. African famed smoking chimp dies

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Charlie the smoking chimpanzee has died. Qondile Khedama, a spokesman for the central South African city of Bloemfontein where Charlie had been a fixture at the small zoo, said the chimp died Tuesday, apparently of old age. Charlie was believed to be 52. Khedama says zoo officials noticed about five years ago that visitors were tossing Charlie cigarettes, and he was mimicking smokers. Khedama says zookeepers tried to stop visitors from encouraging Charlie in a habit many humans are trying to quit. Newspapers picked up the story. Charlie featured in a U.S. TV news report, and became the first animal visitors would ask to see.

Pizza driver falls for 'mom is in the shower' scam

HOQUIAM, Wash. (AP)—A pizza driver made a delivery Tuesday to a house in Hoquiam where a child answered the door, took the pizza and said his mother was in the shower and would be out to pay soon. KBKW reported the driver waited about 30 minutes before calling police. Officers found the house was vacant and the child apparently escaped with the pizza out the back door.

Money topples from armored car into Ind. traffic

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Money doesn't grow on trees, but it seemed to fall from the sky in Indianapolis. Police said three bundles of money fell off the back of an armored car Wednesday near an intersection in the heart of downtown Indianapolis. A car hit one of the bundles and sent bills blowing into the breeze. Witnesses told The Indianapolis Star about 10 people stormed through traffic into the intersection to fill their arms with cash. Two others stopped to help collect the money and guard it until police and the armored car company arrived. It's not immediately known how much money went missing, but WTHR-TV said most of the blown cash was recovered.

Science & Technology

Trio wins Nobel for developing key chemistry tool

NEW YORK (AP)—A method for building complex molecules has paid off by helping to fight cancer, protect crops and make electronic devices—and now it has earned its developers a Nobel Prize.

Three men—two Japanese scientists and an American researcher—designed the technique to bind together carbon atoms, a key step in assembling the skeletons of organic compounds used in medicine, agriculture and electronics.

Their work in the 1960s and 1970s provided "one of the most sophisticated tools available to chemists today (and) vastly improved the possibilities for chemists to create sophisticated chemicals," the Nobel committee said.

The winners are Richard Heck, 79, a professor emeritus at the University of Delaware, now living in the Philippines; Ei-ichi Negishi, 75, a chemistry professor at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., and Akira Suzuki, 80, a retired professor from Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan.

Carbon atoms are normally shy about pairing up. The winning approach was to use atoms of the metal palladium kind of like a singles bar, a place where pairs of carbon atoms are jammed together and encouraged to bond. This idea, called palladium-catalyzed cross coupling, was easier to do than previous methods.

Heck published his initial work in 1968 and an improved method in 1972. In 1977, Negishi developed a variant of the palladium approach and two years later Suzuki developed another.

Altogether, their methods are now widely used in industry and research.

"I don't think anybody thinks about making a complicated organic compound without considering one of these three reactions," said Keith Woerpel, a chemistry professor at New York University.

By one estimate, they're the basis for at least 25 percent of all chemical reactions in the pharmaceutical industry, said prize committee member Claes Gustafsson.

That includes the production of the common painkiller naproxen, widely sold as Aleve and other brands, new antibiotics, an asthma drug and a synthetic version of a substance from a marine sponge that might fight cancer. Heck's work was adapted to make the cancer drug Taxol, steroids and morphine, the Nobel committee said.

In agriculture, the palladium approach is used to make chemicals that protect crops from fungi and other pests. And the electronics industry uses it for coating electronic circuits and as a tool for developing future computer screens that are thinner, said prize committee member Jan-Erling Backvall.

Jeremy Berg, director of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences in Bethesda, Md., said the three winners did "very fundamental and important work."

AP

American Richard Heck and his Filipino wife Socorro, kiss during an interview with the Associated Press at their residence at Manila's Quezon city in the Philippines shortly after The Royal Academy of Sciences announced in Sweden he won the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry Wednesday Oct.6, 2010.

Bonds between carbon atoms "are really the lifeblood of the ability to make organic compounds," Berg said. "Making the carbon-carbon bond is really sort of the framework. It's like the framing of a house. You can add on other pieces later on, but the carbon-carbon formation is really a key part of it."

The palladium approach makes carbon atoms bond "very easily, very cleanly," said Joseph Francisco, president of the American Chemical Society and a colleague of Negishi's in Purdue's chemistry department.

Though the prize was given for breakthroughs made 30 to 40 years ago, that's not uncommon for Nobel Prizes, especially if the real-world uses increase over time.

"This is one of those cases," said Gustafsson, of the chemistry prize committee.

Heck was the only American among the Nobel science winners this year. In recent years, there have been at least two U.S. scientists among the medicine, physics and chemistry laureates; there were none in 1991.

Heck, who has retired from active research, said the award would probably not spur any major change in his settled life in the Philippines, where he lives with his Filipino wife and tends to an orchid garden and pet birds.

"It's a nice thing to have, but I don't think this is going to change my life. I'm too old," Heck told The Associated Press in an interview in his suburban Manila home.

Negishi told reporters in Stockholm by telephone from Indiana that he started dreaming about winning the prize half a century ago.

"The Nobel Prize became a realistic dream of mine when I was in my 20s," he said, adding he would use his third of the $1.5 million (10 million kronor) award to continue doing research.

"I may have accomplished maybe half of my goals, and I definitely would like to work for at least a couple more years," Negishi said.

Suzuki, in a televised news conference from Hokkaido University, said he hoped the prize would inspire Japanese youngsters to explore chemistry.

"To my disappointment, not many young people seem to be interested in science, especially chemistry," Suzuki said.

The literature prize will be announced on Thursday, followed by the peace prize on Friday and economics on Monday, Oct. 11.

The awards were established by Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel—the inventor of dynamite—and are always handed out on Dec. 10, the anniversary of his death in 1896.

Life & Style

HANAMITSU HOTEL & SPA

Paseo de Marianas' best-kept secret

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

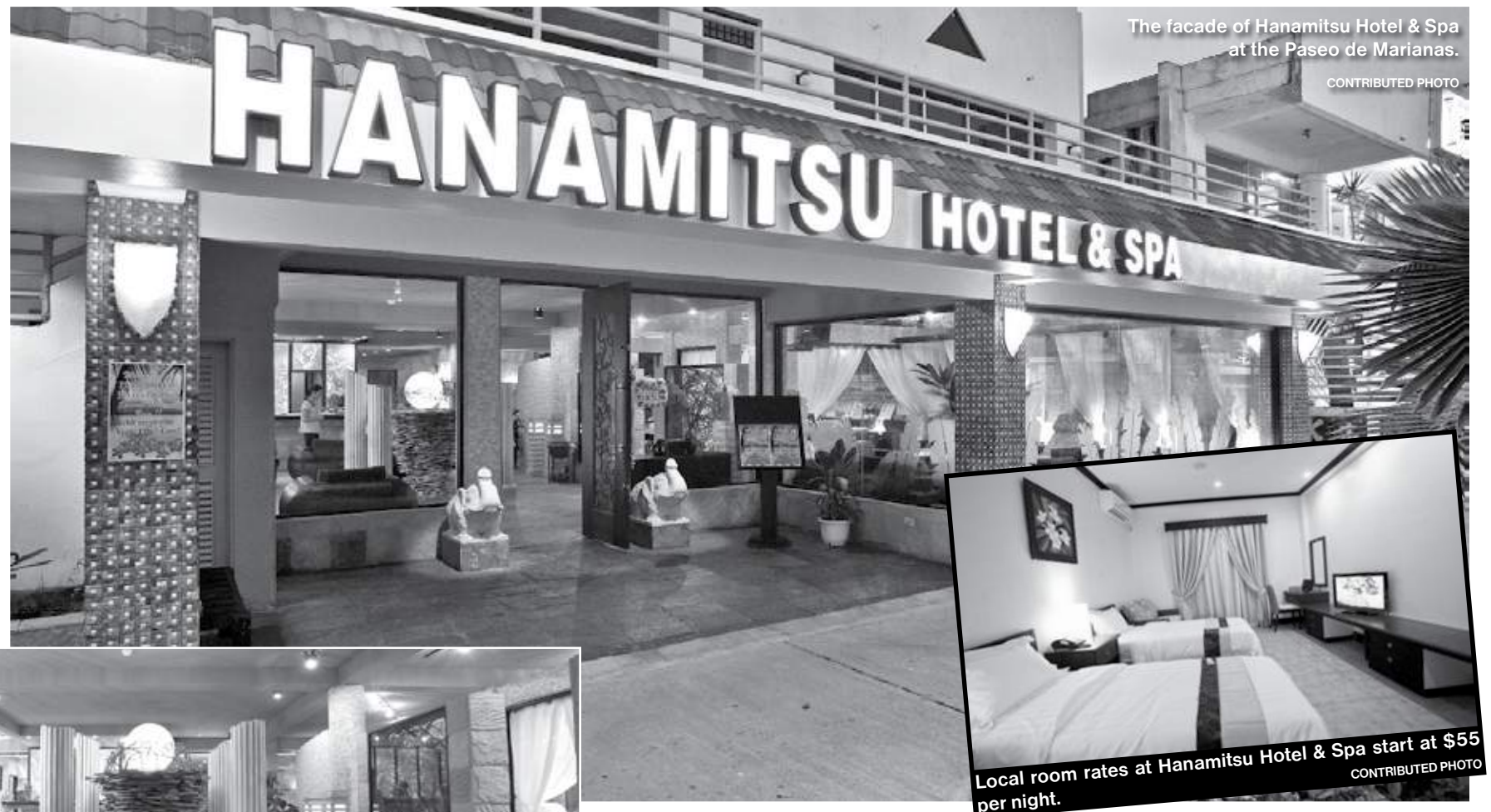
There's a quiet, contemporary hotel and spa retreat waiting to be discovered at the heart of Paseo de Marianas.

Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa is the newly opened destination hotel spa created by the same nifty minds behind Pure Spa and Kira Kira Nail located at the tourist center of this tropical paradise.

The appealing frontage of this modern-day hotel and spa is only among the structure's positive features. Step inside Hanamitsu and one can view its stylish, avant-garde interiors and indulge in its relaxing ambiance.

Its distinctive foyer decorated with stoned walls of muted, earthy tones, unique and modern fixtures, as well as simple authenticity reinforce Hanamitsu's invigorating allure, rightfully earning the title of the best-kept secret at Paseo de Marianas.

Amy Zhang, the charming manager of the newly opened hotel and spa, gave *Saipan Tribune* a tour of the three-floor edifice and chatted about the wide range of amenities they offer.



The facade of Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa at the Paseo de Marianas.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local room rates at Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa start at $55 per night.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

▲ Hanamitsu's stylish, avant-garde interior. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

▶ Customers indulge in Hanamitsu's foot spa and massage service. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The ground floor of Hanamitsu hosts the waiting area—that has wi-fi access—as well as its relaxation haven. The wonderful space features the head spa rooms, foot spa and massage area, nail care salon, bath and sauna, and the body treatment, and massage room.

On the second and third floors are Hanamitsu's 20 individually styled rooms, equipped with a brand new flat-screen television and Internet cable line.

With its sleek and modish appeal, Zhang said people regard them as a pricey establishment, catering only to tourists. But the Hanamitsu manager disagreed.

"Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa is very affordable and we're open to all locals. We have local rates for them," said Zhang.

In fact, a one-hour massage at Hanamitsu costs only $25 and is inclusive of a luxuriating sauna treat, while a one-night stay at one of the rooms starts at $55. Hotel guests can request for massage room service at no additional cost.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Indian-inspired head spa treatment is among the services offered by the newly-opened Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa.

Zhang said they only use all-natural products from Bali for their blissful spa services performed by about 30 highly trained and professional staff.

Experience pampering at its best only at Hanamitsu Hotel & Spa located across the ABC Store. They are open from 11am to 2am. All major cards accepted. For appointments, visit their location or call 233-1818 or 483-7119.

In Humble Gratitude

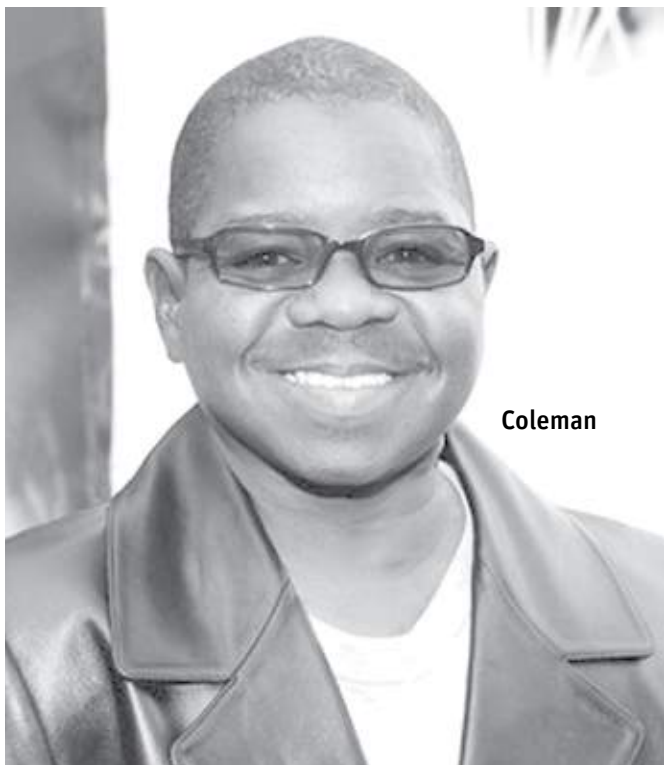
We, the family of the late

Nicolas T. Salas

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and acts of grace extended to us.

May God Bless you all!
Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow
Tannie Dela Cruz Salas and family

Authorities rule Gary Coleman's death an accident



Coleman

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Police confirmed Wednesday that "Diff'rent Strokes" actor Gary Coleman's death has been ruled an accident.

Santaquin Police Chief Dennis Howard said an autopsy found Coleman died of natural causes after an accidental fall. The finding matches the evidence police found at Coleman's Santaquin home on May 26, Howard told The Associated Press.

The state medical examiner's conclusions bring the police investigation into the death to a close, Howard said.

The 42-year-old actor died at a Provo hospital two days after his fall. He was taken off life support after suffering a brain hemorrhage.

An e-mail message sent to a spokeswoman for Coleman's former wife, Shannon Price, who made the decision to remove him from life support, was not immediately returned late Wednesday.

Coleman became a star after "Diff'rent Strokes" debuted in 1978. For eight seasons, Coleman played Arnold Jackson, the younger one of a pair of African-American brothers adopted by a wealthy white man. The tiny 10-year-old's "Whachu talkin' 'bout?" became a popular catch phrase from the show.

Coleman's adult life was plagued with heath and legal problems.

He moved to Utah in fall 2005, and according to a tally in early 2010, officers had been called to assist or intervene with Coleman more than 20 times. In one instance, Coleman called police for help after he claimed he had taken dozens of pain killers and "wanted to die."

Some of the disputes involved Price, whom he met on the set of the 2006 "Church Ball" and married in 2007. The couple divorced a year later but continued to live together and present themselves as married in public.

Price has petitioned the Utah courts to recognize her common law relationship with Coleman from the date of their divorce through his May 28 death. She is seeking the recognition as part of an ongoing legal battle over Coleman's estate, which includes the house in Santaquin, about 65 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Coleman, who was cremated weeks after his death, left multiple wills, although a note handwritten by Coleman days after his 2007 marriage names Price his sole heir.

Coleman's ex-girlfriend Anna Gray contends a 2005 document awards her the estate.

Calif. court hears Jackson dad's estate appeal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's father was "grievously wronged" by a probate court that decided last year not to let him try to replace the administrators of his son's estate, an attorney argued Wednesday.

The arguments by attorney Brian Oxman, who represents Joe Jackson, were heard by a three-judge panel of the California Second District Court of Appeal after a probate judge ruled last November that Joe Jackson did not have standing to intervene in the matter.

The appeals panel did not issue a ruling but did question the legal steps Joe Jackson had taken after being left out of his son's will and whether the moves warranted revisiting the challenge to the administrators.

Associate Justice Laurie D. Zelon asked why Joe Jackson had withdrawn a petition to receive a monthly stipend from the estate before the probate court had a chance to rule on the request.

Oxman said the petition had seemed duplicative after Joe Jackson filed a wrongful death lawsuit in June against a doctor who has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter in the death of the pop star.

Attorney Howard Weitzman, who represents the estate, countered that pursuing the stipend petition would allow Joe Jackson to be questioned under oath about various other matters.

Zelon also noted that Oxman hadn't told the probate court that his client was considering the wrongful death lawsuit.

"I must beg this court's forgiveness. I must beg the probate court's forgiveness. The magic words 'wrongful death' did not pass my lips," Oxman said.

Associate Justice Fred Woods questioned why Joe Jackson hadn't filed a creditor's claim with the estate, since he has claimed his son supported him financially throughout his life.

Oxman said there was never a contract between Michael Jackson and his father for assistance.

Attorneys for Jackson's estate reminded the appeals panel that the singer had omitted his father from his will and he was not considered a beneficiary of the estate.

"He is not an heir," estate attorney Howard Weitzman told the panel in brief remarks.

Attorneys for the singer's mother, Katherine Jackson, and his three children also argued against Joe Jackson's petition.

Michael Jackson's will appointed attorney John Branca and music executive and family friend John McClain to oversee the pop singer's estate, which has earned tens of millions of dollars since Jackson's death in June 2009 at age 50.

Fired CNN host Sanchez apologizes to Jon Stewart

AP

This undated photo from the biography section of CNN's website, shows former CNN news anchor Rick Sanchez.

NEW YORK (AP)—Fired CNN host Rick Sanchez has apologized to Jon Stewart and anyone else he offended with what he calls "inartful comments" he made during a radio interview.

Sanchez issued a blanket statement Wednesday, five days after he was fired from CNN for his remarks, including branding Stewart a bigot and questioning whether Jews should be considered a minority.

In Sanchez's statement, he said he had had a "very good conversation" on Monday with Stewart, who anchors the satirical "Daily Show" on Comedy Central.

Sanchez also says he has highest regards for CNN, his employer for six years.

Comedy Central declined to confirm Wednesday whether Stewart and Sanchez have spoken since Sanchez's radio outbursts last week.

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Life As We Know It
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tues through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Katherine Heigl, Josh Duhamel
Drama, Comedy • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
In the romantic comedy Life as We Know It, Holly Berenson is an up-and-coming caaterer and Eric Messer is a promising network sport director. After a disastrous first date, the only thing they have in common id their dislike for aech other and their love for their goddaughter, Sophie. But when they suddenly become all Sophie has in the world, Holly and Messer are forced to put their differences aside.

My Soul To Take
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tues through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Max Thieriot, John Magaro
Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
A notorious serial killer uses his dying breath to place a deadly curse on a small town in this shocker from legendary horror director Wes Craven (Scream, A Nightmare on Elm Street). It's been 16 years since the maniac who terrorized Riverton met his grim demise. Seven children were born on the night he died, and he vowed that he would return one day to claim them all.

Eat, Pray, Love
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:40
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tues through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Julia Roberts, James Franco
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A woman who once made it her goal in life to marry and rear a family finds her priorities suddenly shifting in director Ryan Murphy's adaptation of author Elizabeth Gilbert's best-selling memoir. In the eyes of many, Gilbert was a woman who had it all—a loving husband, a great apartment, and a weekend home—but sometimes one realizes too little too late that they haven't gotten what they truly wanted from life.

Sa'yo Lamang
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tues through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon
Drama • Rated N/R

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
Monday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Tues through Thurs 4:10 7:10
Michael Douglas, Shia LeBeouf
Drama • Rated PG 13

Legend Of The Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:30
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Tues through Thurs 4:20 7:20
Sam Neil, Geoffrey Rush
Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

You Again
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Tues through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Jamie Lee Curtis, Sigourney Weaver
Comedy • Rated PG

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Gibson's ex says she feared for life after fight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson's ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva said she feared the Academy Award winner might kill her during a fight earlier this year, giving her first public account of an argument she claims turned violent.

The Russian-born musician accuses the "Braveheart" star of hitting and choking her and claims he had a gun during the January confrontation.

"I was scared for my life and my daughter's," she told People magazine in a story published Wednesday. "I thought he would kill me."

Grigorieva also told the magazine she did not leak now-famous tapes purportedly of the actor in a series of racist and misogynistic rants. Audio of the actor-director's rants was leaked to celebrity website RadarOnline.com, which has said the tapes did not come from Grigorieva.

The recordings were made a month after the alleged physical abuse.

Gibson's representatives did not participate in the People story and declined to comment on Grigorieva's interview.

She did not report the alleged abuse to authorities until months later, after the couple broke up and became embroiled in a bitter custody dispute over their infant daughter. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has completed an investigation into Grigorieva's domestic violence claims and turned its results over to prosecutors.

The agency also is investigating Grigorieva after Gibson claimed she tried to extort him.

Grigorieva, who is living in a home provided by the actor, said she didn't immediately report the violence in part because she didn't want to humiliate him. But she told the magazine that she now is fighting her ex-boyfriend for her daughter.

"I'm standing up to a bully who is very rich and famous," she said.

Grigorieva said in the interview that she hopes her daughter, who turns 1 later this month, will love and forgive Gibson.

AP

In this April 19, 2010 file photo, Mel Gibson's ex-girlfriend, Russian-born singer, songwriter Oksana Grigorieva, talks during a news conference in Moscow.

Taylor Swift wins case trademark case

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2010 file photo, singer Taylor Swift arrives at the premiere of the film "Easy A" in Los Angeles.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Taylor Swift has won a court fight against 16 individuals she claimed violated trademark by selling counterfeit merchandise bearing her name and picture.

Court documents said a federal judge in Nashville granted a default judgment last week permanently barring 16 individuals from making or selling Taylor Swift merchandise.

Swift claimed in the suit that her merchandise enforcement team found numerous individuals selling fake goods across the country during her 2009 tour, including T-shirts with her image on them.

A message left for Swift's attorney on Wednesday was not immediately returned. Court records indicated that the accused individuals had no attorneys listed and they had not responded to the lawsuit.

'Glee' cast beats out Beatles for Billboard record

AP

In this publicity image released by Fox, Heather Morris portrays Britney Spears, center, in the "Britney/ Brittany" episode of "Glee."

NEW YORK (AP)—The "Glee" cast has surpassed the Beatles for the most appearances on the Billboard Hot 100 chart by a non-solo act.

The cast of the Fox television musical series about a high school glee club has six debuts on the chart this week. That gives it a total of 75 songs on the chart to the Beatles' 71.

The show's soundtrack got a boost after this week's episode featuring the music of Britney Spears.

Elvis Presley still leads overall with 108 songs to chart on the Hot 100. He's followed by James Brown with 91, then "Glee."

The Beatles are sixth, behind Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin. Elton John, Lil Wayne, Stevie Wonder and Jay-Z round out the Top 10.

Nielsen SoundScan says the "Glee" cast has sold 2.8 million albums and 11.5 million downloads.

Emma Stone joins cast of new `Spider-Man' film

NEW YORK (AP)—Emma Stone will play Gwen Stacy in the next "Spider-Man" movie.

Stone will star opposite Andrew Garfield, who plays Spidey and alter-ego Peter Parker. The announcement was made Tuesday by Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. and Columbia Pictures.

Director Marc Webb says the chemistry between Stone and Garfield was "stunning," which made the 21-year-old actress the "clear choice" to play Gwen.

Stone's screen credits include "Easy A" and "Superbad."

The new movie will focus on a younger version of the superhero. It will be filmed in 3-D, and is scheduled for release July 3, 2012.

Tobey Maguire and director Sam Raimi, who made three blockbuster "Spider-Man" movies together, departed amid story and scheduling issues over the fourth movie.

AP

In an April 5, 2010 file photo, actress Emma Stone attends a special screening of 'Paper Man', hosted by The Cinema Society in New York.

First love fills young teen with big questions, doubts

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend "Chucky" and I have been together for a while and things are starting to get serious. I'm 15 and he's almost 18.

I'm falling in love with him, which has never happened with any other guy. I really think he's "The One." Chucky proposed, but it isn't official yet. I still have no ring, but I'm thinking of accepting. Now he says he wants a baby.

I'm too young to be having a baby, but he says he'll take care of me if it happens. I trust him, but I don't know what to believe. A part of me says he'll stay with me, the other part says he'll get scared and leave. What if something goes wrong and I get pregnant by accident? I'm so confused. Can you please help me?

CHUCKY'S GIRL IN VICTORVILLE, CALIF.

DEAR CHUCKY'S GIRL: At "almost 18" Chucky is not yet self-supporting, let alone in a position to support a child—and at 15, neither are you. Chucky may want a baby to prove to himself that he's a man, but a REAL man wouldn't put a woman he loves in a vulnerable position—and motherhood at 16 is exactly that.

Did you know that when young men reach the age of 18 they are considered adults? Adult males who have sex with underage girls can find themselves in jail for it. If you don't have sex with Chucky, there will be no "accidents."

It's hard to think clearly when you think you're falling in love, but I'm asking you to make a superhuman effort. I can't stress strongly enough how important it is that you finish high school, so that when you do become a mother you'll be able to support yourself and your child if you need to. Many women do. They also sometimes have to support a husband who can't find work.

Before things go any further, please find an adult woman you can confide in. She'll set you straight!

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine, "Barbie," volunteered to be the maid of honor in my wedding. She didn't attend any of the dress fittings because she doesn't have a car. She volunteered to throw a bridal shower despite having no money, and asked my fiance to contribute. After he told Barbie he was "tapped out" (because of the wedding bills), she suggested he return some of the gifts he had bought me!

Two days before the shower, I learned she had selected a dress more suited to a stripper pole than a church wedding ceremony. At that point, my fiance decided to remove her from the bridal party.

Barbie feels slighted and doesn't understand why we made the day about "us" and not her. She's genuinely hurt that we didn't "consider her financial position." (We didn't ask for her help in the first place.)

Would you please lend your vast wisdom and insight to this matter?

DENIAL IS NOT A RIVER IN EGYPT

DEAR DENIAL: When Barbie volunteered to be your maid of honor, knowing her financial situation you should have politely told her no. Because you didn't, you should have made sure she understood the financial responsibilities that went with being in the wedding. And since she had no transportation, someone should have offered her a ride to the dress fitting, which would have enabled you to see her dress selection.

That said, your friend was pushy to ask to be in the wedding in the first place, gutsy to expect your fiance to return your gifts to help her pay for the shower and clueless about wedding etiquette. Make a pact to forgive HER if she'll forgive YOU, and all of you should go on with your lives. I predict it will be in opposite directions.

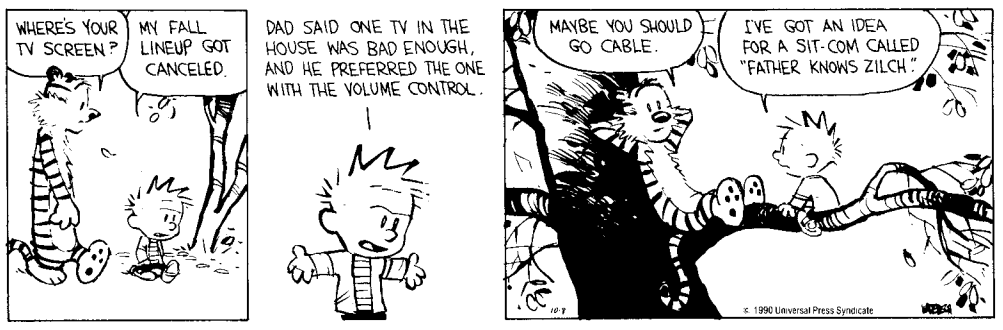
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHERE'S YOUR TV SCREEN?
MY FALL LINEUP GOT CANCELED.
DAD SAID ONE TV IN THE HOUSE WAS BAD ENOUGH, AND HE PREFERRED THE ONE WITH THE VOLUME CONTROL.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO CABLE.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA FOR A SIT-COM CALLED "FATHER KNOWS ZILCH."
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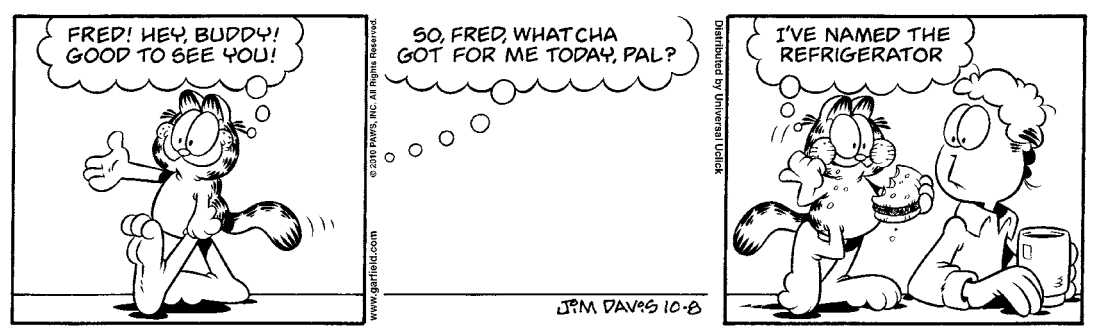
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


FRED! HEY, BUDDY! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
SO, FRED, WHAT'CHA GOT FOR ME TODAY, PAL?
I'VE NAMED THE REFRIGERATOR
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JIM DAVIS 10-8
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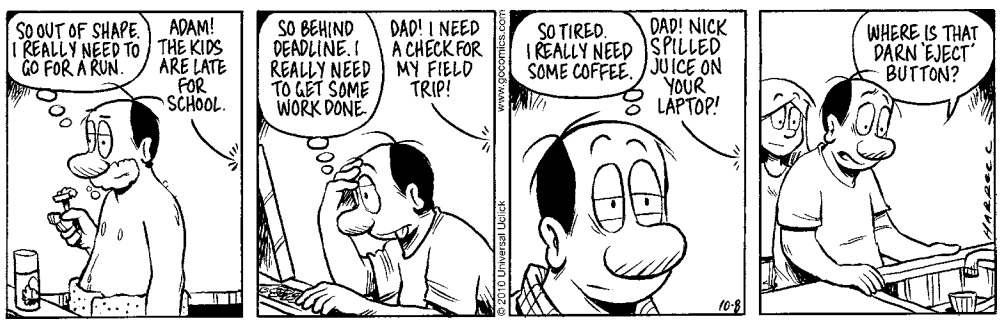
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO OUT OF SHAPE. I REALLY NEED TO GO FOR A RUN.
ADAM! THE KIDS ARE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
SO BEHIND DEADLINE. I REALLY NEED TO GET SOME WORK DONE.
DAD! I NEED A CHECK FOR MY FIELD TRIP!
SO TIRED. I REALLY NEED SOME COFFEE.
DAD! NICK SPILLED JUICE ON YOUR LAPTOP!
WHERE IS THAT DARN 'EJECT' BUTTON?
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10-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW WAS YOUR RUN?
I THINK I'M PUSHING MYSELF TOO HARD.
I TRIED RUNNING THREE MILES, BUT HALFWAY THROUGH, I JUST HIT A WALL.
LOST YOUR MOTIVATION, HUH?
NO. I WAS WATCHING SOME HOT GIRL JOGGER AND RAN INTO A BUILDING.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

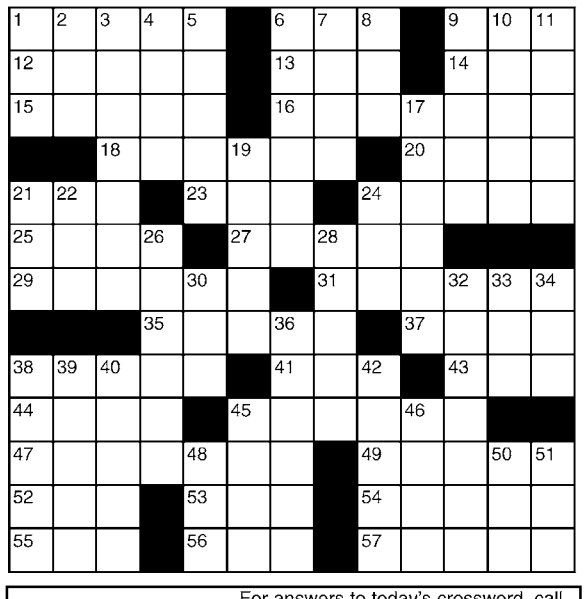
ACROSS
1 James — Garfield
6 Suitable
9 Buck-eyes' sch.
12 Colander
13 Mop & —
14 Tin container
15 Smaller map
16 Half a winter pair
18 Gearshift mechanism, for short
20 Sheltered
21 Down Under avian
23 Started
24 Scandinavian inlet
25 Hay there?
27 The R in NPR
29 Contaminate
31 Green
35 Pyromaniac's crime
37 Winter forecast
38 "Loves me (not)" flower
41 Work with
43 Pink-slip
44 Dermatology case
45 Add on
47 The "Crime Dog"
49 March King
52 Paid player
53 Month in Marseilles
54 Spritelike
55 Blue
56 Illustrations
57 Southpaw

DOWN
1 "— was saying, ..."
2 Cubby-hole
3 Pack anew
4 State with certainty
5 Gold or silver
6 To-do list
7 Stage presentation
8 Craggy peak
9 Eye (Pref.)
10 Less risky
11 Hungry
17 Bionic man portrayer
19 "Phooey!"
21 Yale student
22 Calendar abbr.
24 Shark's giveaway
26 Riddle
28 Actress Kirsten
30 Bawl
32 Peeved
33 Curse
34 Ram's mate
36 Costume
38 Chokes
39 Ghana's capital
40 "— We Trust"
42 Museum stand
45 Somewhere out there
46 "Unforgettable" singer
48 Ms. Thurman
50 Perch
51 Whatever amount

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	A	G	S	■	F	A	T	■	U	F	O	S
A	L	O	E	■	I	C	Y	■	R	I	D	E
G	I	S	T	■	R	E	P	■	C	R	O	W
A	T	H	O	M	E	■	O	T	H	E	R	S
■	■	■	F	E	W	■	■	M	I	S	■	■
O	R	F	F	■	A	F	F	I	N	I	T	Y
T	A	I	■	■	L	E	I	■	■	G	O	O
T	H	R	I	L	L	E	R	■	A	N	O	N
■	■	E	R	E	■	■	E	M	U	■	■	■
H	A	B	I	T	S	■	P	A	G	O	D	A
A	V	I	S	■	A	L	L	■	U	S	E	D
L	O	R	E	■	L	O	U	■	S	L	E	D
E	N	D	S	■	E	G	G	■	T	O	P	S

Yesterday's answer 10-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nick Cannon, 30; Matt Damon, 40; Sigourney Weaver, 61; Chevy Chase, 67

Happy Birthday: Don't fear competition. Instead, incorporate your own unique twist to whatever you do. You are in control if you do what's required of you to take charge and do the groundwork. Position yourself strategically where you will get the most coverage. Your numbers are 8, 15, 19, 24, 26, 33, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may feel split about what you should be doing and what you want to do. You can push someone to contribute to your end goal, allowing you to enjoy both accomplishment and celebration. Love relationships can bring changes in the way you live. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There is plenty to gain by observing what others do, say and propose. Consider ways to make someone you care for feel special. Don't be afraid to show your emotions; the response you get will make you feel secure about your current situation and your future. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Give more time to the young and the old in your life. Use your creativity to dazzle those you encounter with smashing ideas and brilliant plans to turn something you do well into a profitable endeavor. Serious talks will bring long-lasting results. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll feel torn between two options and two groups of people. Your heart will lead you in one direction and your responsibilities in another. Share your dilemma with someone you respect and you will come up with a workable plan. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Now is a great time to interact with friends, neighbors and relatives who have just as much to offer as you. A pleasure trip will spark some ideas. Serious talks will bring results but expect someone to question and push you a little in the process. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let someone from your past or an old memory stop you from making progressive moves. You cannot stay put because of someone else's needs or jealousy. A change at home may be necessary for your own emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Shake off the negativity. There is always a balance in life; look beyond what isn't working for you and you will discover what's available. Not everything has to run according to your plans. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can delegate work but keep a tight watch over what everyone around you is doing. An unexpected opportunity may conflict with something already taking place. Negotiate wisely. Don't pass up a good deal. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let personal relationships cause you to miss an opportunity. Unexpected changes at home will be to your advantage in the end, even if at the moment you feel a little lost or left out. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put everything you've got into work and you will make headway. Too much thought and interaction with people who don't think the same way as you will interfere in your productivity and progress. It's about accomplishment, not what everyone else thinks or does. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put your emotions aside and focus on the real issues. You cannot give someone the benefit of a doubt, especially if it could cost you emotionally, personally or financially. Arguments will develop if there is jealousy. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have the potential to negotiate deals, resolve settlements or to make a long-lasting and meaningful commitment. There is good fortune heading your way, making this an ideal time to invest in something solid, like property or one of your talents. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a thinker—intuitive and astute when dealing with others. You are concerned with justice and will do what you can to maintain balance.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6					
		2		5	4			
		3		7		2	9	
	8							4
	6	7				3	8	
9							7	
	1	5		3		6		
			2	6		9		
					1			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	6	5	3	9	2	8	1
3	2	5	1	8	6	4	9	7
8	1	9	7	4	2	3	6	5
2	6	3	9	1	7	8	5	4
5	8	7	3	2	4	6	1	9
4	9	1	6	5	8	7	2	3
1	7	8	4	6	5	9	3	2
6	5	4	2	9	3	1	7	8
9	3	2	8	7	1	5	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OKTOBERFEST 2010 **Solution: 8 letters**

N	C	N	E	M	E	L	F	I	R	E	T	I	L	S
O	O	A	C	S	F	A	M	I	L	Y	W	I	N	E
I	S	I	I	S	G	A	L	F	N	F	Ⓕ	Ⓞ	Ⓛ	Ⓚ
S	T	C	T	E	S	U	D	O	N	A	I	G	A	A
S	U	I	Y	C	S	E	M	A	I	S	E	S	N	C
E	M	S	S	T	A	E	I	R	N	R	L	L	D	N
C	E	U	W	D	R	R	G	R	M	C	D	E	L	A
O	S	M	O	E	A	R	T	A	E	I	E	S	O	P
R	B	X	C	V	O	Y	N	T	I	W	V	U	R	O
P	E	A	A	U	L	Y	S	T	A	R	E	O	D	T
N	E	B	N	L	E	Z	T	E	R	P	R	R	S	A
P	R	D	U	M	P	L	I	N	G	S	O	A	B	T
O	D	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y	R	Y	C	C	O
R	E	B	M	E	T	P	E	S	S	T	A	O	G	P
K	W	A	I	T	R	E	S	S	E	S	L	L	A	H

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Yesterday's Answer: Geometry

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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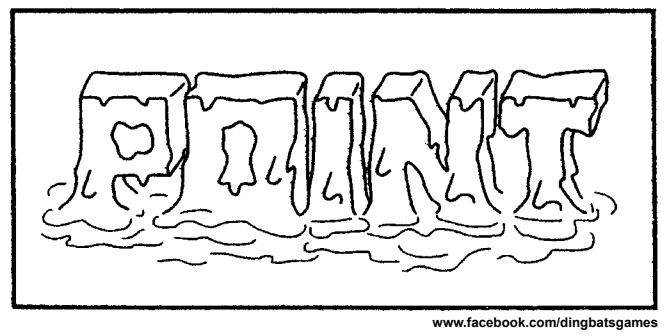

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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 027 E 02, containing an area of approximately 4,530 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is JL Reyes Incorporated, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, and Leticia D. Reyes.

The President of the Corporation is Juan S. Reyes. The Vice President is Dolores R. Tudela. The Treasurer/Secretary is Leticia D. Reyes.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of general contracting, construction, offices, materials/supply warehouse, and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 14, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN EKSTENSION INATKILAN TANO´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi halom i Seksiona 106 (a) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku guini na ha nå´i notisia i intension-ña para u rekumenda i ekstension ma'atkilan i pumalu na tano´ pupbliku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas Siha. Este na ekstension atkilon sinuhetu ni para u inapreba ni Lihislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda huyong gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerål siña manna´hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen propositu siha para i inatkilan tano´ pupbliku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, ni tinattitiyi ni pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapupblika

i. I ma´atkilan tåno´ pupbliku madeskribi komu Lot No. 027 E 02, ni kinensisiste i åria gi kåsi propiu 4,530 square meters, potlumenus mås, ni gaige giya Lower Base, Saipan. i kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku Siha para i rikonosimento.

ii. I manatkikila si JL Reyes Incorporated, i Corportion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Corporation si Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, yan si Leticia D. Reyes.

I Presidenten i Corporation si Juan S. Reyes. I Sigundo Presidente si Dolores R. Tudela I Tresurårio / Sekritåria si Leticia D. Reyes..

iii. I maproponen ekstension atkilon manigosio gi as Siñot Juan S. Reyes..

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugåt siha uniku para i rason i manmaneha bisnes gi general contracting, konstraksion, ofisina siha, materiåt/supply na warehouse, yan i mana'achule' n aktibidåt siha.

I teman kontråtan inekstenden atkilon sa´ (15) åños.

I maproponen atkilon kada såkkan gi durånten i tema sigun gi percentage gi ma'estima gi fair market value gi propiedåt, inengklulusu i tumatachu na estrokto siha.

v. I kopian i maproponen kontråtan ekstension atkilon siha siña machule´ gi ofisian Dipattamenton Tåno´ Pupbliku Siha, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; i sigundo bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; pat i primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ha risibi tåya´ na tinahguen propositu siha para atkila i suheto i tano´ pupbliku giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårion i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha debi na uma´aksepta i tinige´ infetmasion, opiñon, testamonion kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i maninteresåo na pattida siha gi pat åntes di Oktubre 14, 2010 gi Ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ni manggaige giya Saipan, Rota pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.027 E 02, faawu sangaras limeigh me eliigh llapal (4, 530 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge JL Reyes Incorporated, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil samwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, me Leticia D. Reyes.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes. Arúscheyil Samwool nge
Dolores R. Tudela. Treasurer/Secretary nge Leticia D. Reyes

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley me mwóghut ágheli bisinisil pwol (contracting), construction, offices, peiraghil warehouse, me akkááw mwóghutul.

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v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Ottuubre (October) 14, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

WANTED

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Please submit Resume and a copy of Police Clearance at **H&S USA Corp. dba. Play Inn** located in Garapan, across Hyatt Regency Hotel.

For more information, please call 285-7373

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL – Rota, Marshal Service Unit

REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: Candidate must possess a valid CNMI driver's license and current police and traffic clearances.

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the Chief Marshal on Saipan and be responsible for maintaining order in the courtroom during proceedings and prisoner processing. The successful candidate will conduct inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibit the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited. The successful candidate will monitor court premises; assist in protection and transportation of jurors and other court personnel; have knowledge of and follow courtroom directives; process prisoner documentation; control unruly patrons, and perform other duties about the courthouses premises as assigned.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be negotiable.

Resumes and complete OPM applications should be addressed to the Honorable Miguel S. Demapan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, P.O. Box 5021645, Saipan, MP, 96950. Applications can be obtained at the OPM offices. Completed applications may also be submitted at the Rota Superior Court in Sinapalo, Rota. Resumes and applications must be submitted by 12:00 noon on October 8, 2010. For additional information about the position call (670) 236-9716. This job announcement can also be seen at http://www.justice.gov.mp

This project was supported by Grant Number 2009-DJ-BX-0624 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice and the CNMI Government, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council. The Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs, coordinates the activities of the following program offices and bureaus: Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Corrections Program Office, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office for Victims of Crime and Violence Against Women Office. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the CJPA Supervisory Council.

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Saipan Tribune

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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Opening Date: Friday, September 10, 2010 **Closing Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

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10-049	Compliance Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-050	Information Technology (IT) Specialist	2	$19,425.00 - $25,981.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-051	Information Technology (IT) Analyst	2	$34,176.00 - $44,429.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-052	Accountant	1	$34,176.00 - $41,011.00	Two-year	Accounting, Saipan

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Halladay pitches 1st playoff no-hitter since '56

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Roy Halladay spent his whole career waiting for this start, wondering what it would be like to pitch in the playoffs.

It was better than he—or anyone else—could have predicted.

Halladay threw the second no-hitter in postseason history, leading the Philadelphia Phillies over the Cincinnati Reds 4-0 in Game 1 of the NL division series on Wednesday.

"It's surreal, it really is," Halladay said. "I just wanted to pitch here, to pitch in the postseason. To go out and have a game like that, it's a dream come true."

Don Larsen is the only other pitcher to throw a postseason no-hitter. He tossed a perfect game for the New York Yankees in the 1956 World Series against Brooklyn. The 54th anniversary of Larsen's gem is this Friday.

Halladay took the Year of the Pitcher into October. The excitement spread beyond Citizens Bank Park—the last two outs were shown on the video board at Target Field, where the Twins were preparing to play the Yankees, and Minnesota fans cheered.

The All-Star right-hander, who threw a perfect game at Florida on May 29, dominated the Reds with a sharp fastball and a devastating slow curve in his first playoff start.

The overmatched Reds never came close to a hit. Halladay allowed only one runner, walking Jay Bruce on a full count with two outs in the fifth, and struck out eight.

"To get a no-hitter in this fashion, in your first postseason game, you've got to put it right up there," Phillies first baseman Ryan Howard said.

Halladay threw 104 pitches, 79 for strikes. This was the first no-hitter against the Reds since 1971, when Philadelphia's Rick Wise beat them by the same 4-0 score.

"It's no fun out there," Reds slugger Joey Votto said. "It's like trying to hit nothing. He's an ace among aces."

Halladay spent 12 seasons with Toronto, far from the postseason. A trade last December brought him to the defending two-time NL champions, and gave him this chance.

"This is what you come here for," Halladay said. "It's a good team, they know how to win. ... It's been a great year, a fun year, we obviously have a ways to go."

With a sellout crowd standing in the ninth and chanting "Let's Go, Doc!" Halladay got a loud ovation when he jogged to the mound to start the inning.

Ramon Hernandez popped out to second baseman Chase Utley for the first out. Pinch-hitter Miguel Cairo then fouled out to third baseman Wilson Valdez.

Halladay then retired Brandon Phillips on a tapper in front of the plate to end it. Catcher Carlos Ruiz pounced on the ball, getting down on his knee as the ball rolled near Phillips' bat, and made a strong throw for the final out.

"If I was catching, I probably would've picked up the ball and bat and threw them both," Phils manager Charlie Manuel said.

Halladay pumped his fist into his glove as Ruiz rushed to the mound. Just like catcher Yogi Berra did with Larsen, Ruiz started to jump into Halladay's arms. Unlike Berra, the 5-foot-8 Ruiz didn't wrap up his pitcher in a bear hug.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Roy Halladay celebrates with catcher Carlos Ruiz (51) after throwing a no-hitter to defeat the Cincinnati Reds 4-0 during Game 1 of baseball's National League Division Series Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010, in Philadelphia.

"I felt like we got in a groove early," Halladay said. "Carlos has been great all year, he helps me get into a rhythm early, throwing strikes."

Phillies aces Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels ran out of the dugout side-by-side to congratulate the other member of Philadelphia's Big 3. Pretty soon, everyone in a Phillies uniform was part of the victory party.

Shortstop Jimmy Rollins made the toughest play to preserve the no-hitter, going deep in the hole and making a strong throw to retire Votto in the fourth.

Pitcher Travis Wood hit a sinking liner to right that Jayson Werth caught in the third. Pinch-hitter Juan Francisco hit a hard grounder up the middle in the sixth, but Rollins scooted over and made it look easy.

There were five no-hitters in the majors this year as pitchers dominated. But five no-hit bids got broken up in the ninth inning, too.

Halladay became the fifth pitcher to throw two no-hitters in the same year. He joined Nolan Ryan (1973), Virgil Trucks (1952), Allie Reynolds (1951) and Johnny Vander Meer (1938).

The last time a pitcher came close to a no-hitter in the postseason was quite a while ago. Boston's Jim Lonborg went 7 2-3 innings against St. Louis in the 1967 World Series before Julian Javier broke up it with a double, STATS LLC said.

The Phillies led the majors in wins (97) for the first time in franchise history, captured their fourth consecutive division title and are trying to become the first NL team in 66 years to win three straight pennants.

They are prohibitive favorites in this best-of-five against the NL Central champion Reds, who are making their first postseason appearance since 1995.

Game 2 is Friday at Philadelphia.

The Reds led the NL in average (.272), homers (188) and runs (790). But they couldn't do anything against Halladay, who won 21 games and is a strong candidate to win his second Cy Young Award.

The 33-year-old Halladay topped the NL in victories and led the majors in innings, shutouts and complete games. He was at the top of his game from the get-go in Game 1.

A determined, intense Halladay got ahead of hitters and worked quickly. He threw first-pitch strikes to 17 of the first 18 batters.

"It was great managing," Manuel joked. "He was very good. He had a tremendous feel. He sold his pitches well."

Halladay even did it at the plate. He ignited a three-run, two-out rally in the second with an RBI single.

On the opposite side, 27-year-old Edinson Volquez looked like a postseason rookie. He never seemed to get comfortable on the mound, taking his time between pitches, tugging at his cap and long dreadlocks and breathing deeply. At one point, Hernandez, from his crouched position behind the plate, motioned for him to calm down.

Volquez allowed four runs and four hits in 1 2-3 innings. The hard-throwing right-hander was 4-3 in 12 starts this season after returning from elbow surgery.

Halladay was so eager to join the Phillies that he passed up a chance to test free agency after this season and signed a $60 million, three-year extension to complete a trade. Halladay probably would've received the richest contract ever for a pitcher if he held off, but he wanted to play in Philadelphia.

There was much talk down the stretch about Halladay's inexperience in the postseason. The Phillies also have Oswalt and Hamels. Both pitchers have been dominant in previous playoff games, but Halladay got the ball and didn't disappoint.

Halladay got his first strikeout in the second, fooling Scott Rolen on an 85 mph changeup. He caught Rolen looking at a fastball on the outside corner to start the fifth, and fanned him again on a 79 mph changeup in the seventh.

The Phillies gave Halladay all the runs he would need in the first.

Shane Victorino sliced a one-out double down the left-field line. He stole third and scored on Utley's sacrifice fly to right. A fired-up Victorino slid headfirst barely ahead of Bruce's strong one-hop throw, got up and patted plate umpire John Hirschbeck on the behind on his way to the dugout.

Ruiz drew a two-out walk in the second and Valdez bounced an infield single that shortstop Orlando Cabrera fielded on the second-base side of the infield. Halladay then hit a hard liner to left that fell in ahead of Jonny Gomes' sliding attempt. Ruiz scored to make it 2-0. After Rollins walked to load the bases, Victorino chased Volquez with a two-run single.

With the crowd waving their white-and-red "Fightin' Phils" rally towels, Victorino fouled off consecutive 3-2 pitches before lining a hit to left-center for a 4-0 lead.

The Phillies got swept by the Reds in the 1976 NLCS. Philadelphia won a franchise-record 101 games that season to snap a 25-year playoff drought. But the Phillies ran into the Big Red Machine, which swept through the postseason to win its second consecutive World Series title.

It's a reversed situation now. The Phillies—call them the New Red Machine—are perhaps in the middle of a dynasty, while Cincinnati is the young team on the rise.

Yankees 6, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Mark Teixeira hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning to rally New York past Minnesota in Game 1 of the American League division series.

Yankees ace C.C. Sabathia labored, but reliever David Robertson fanned Jim Thome in a key spot and New York closer Mariano Rivera got the final four outs to close another win for the defending World Series champions.

The Yankees rallied from a 3-0 deficit against Minnesota pitcher Francisco Liriano, improving to 10-2 against the Twins in the playoffs since 2003.

"It's just bad luck for Minnesota. We just keep fighting. That's a great team over there. We've played a lot of tough games against them," Teixeira said.

Even a blown call by the umpires—shades of the last two postseasons—that went against the Yankees with two outs in the bottom of the ninth didn't hurt them.

Minnesota was playing its first outdoor postseason game at home since 1970. They were hoping a move from the indoor Metrodome to the impressive Target Field would turn their fortunes around, but it was more of the same against the Yankees.

Rangers 5, Rays 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Cliff Lee shut down Tampa Bay while outpitching David Price to lead Texas to a victory in the opening game of the American League playoffs.

Lee matched a postseason best with 10 strikeouts while allowing five hits — one after the second inning. During one dominating stretch, he retired 16 of 17 batters before giving up Ben Zobrist's homer in the seventh.

The Rangers, in the playoffs for the first time in 11 years, stopped a nine-game postseason losing streak that began in 1996.

Nelson Cruz and Bengie Molina homered for the AL West champions. Darren O'Day and Darren Oliver pitched the eighth, and rookie Neftali Feliz worked out of a ninth-inning jam by striking out the final two batters.

He's back: Vikings get Moss from Patriots in trade

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Brett Favre finally got his wish. He will be playing with Randy Moss and the Vikings couldn't be happier about it.

The Super-Bowl-or-bust Vikings got Moss from New England on Wednesday for a 2011 draft pick, another eye-opening acquisition that comes just in time to rejuvenate a stagnant offense for a challenging stretch of games.

The Patriots gave the seven-time Pro Bowl wide receiver the exit he expected and sent him back to the team that turned him into a superstar after drafting him in the first round in 1998.

There are still plenty of fond memories around here of Moss's electrifying performances, along with his colorful comments and contrarian behavior.

"He can still go downtown and get the football, which is a stand-alone factor," Vikings coach Brad Childress said. "He could sprain his toe here sometime coming up, and you could say that he's 33, it's old age. But there's always risk-reward. I don't necessarily see this as boom or bust. I think he's got some more football in him."

The Vikings play at New York on Monday night, and Childress said without hesitation Moss would be in uniform against the Jets—in his old purple No. 84.

"Man, we wish this would have happened a week later," Jets running back LaDainian Tomlinson said.

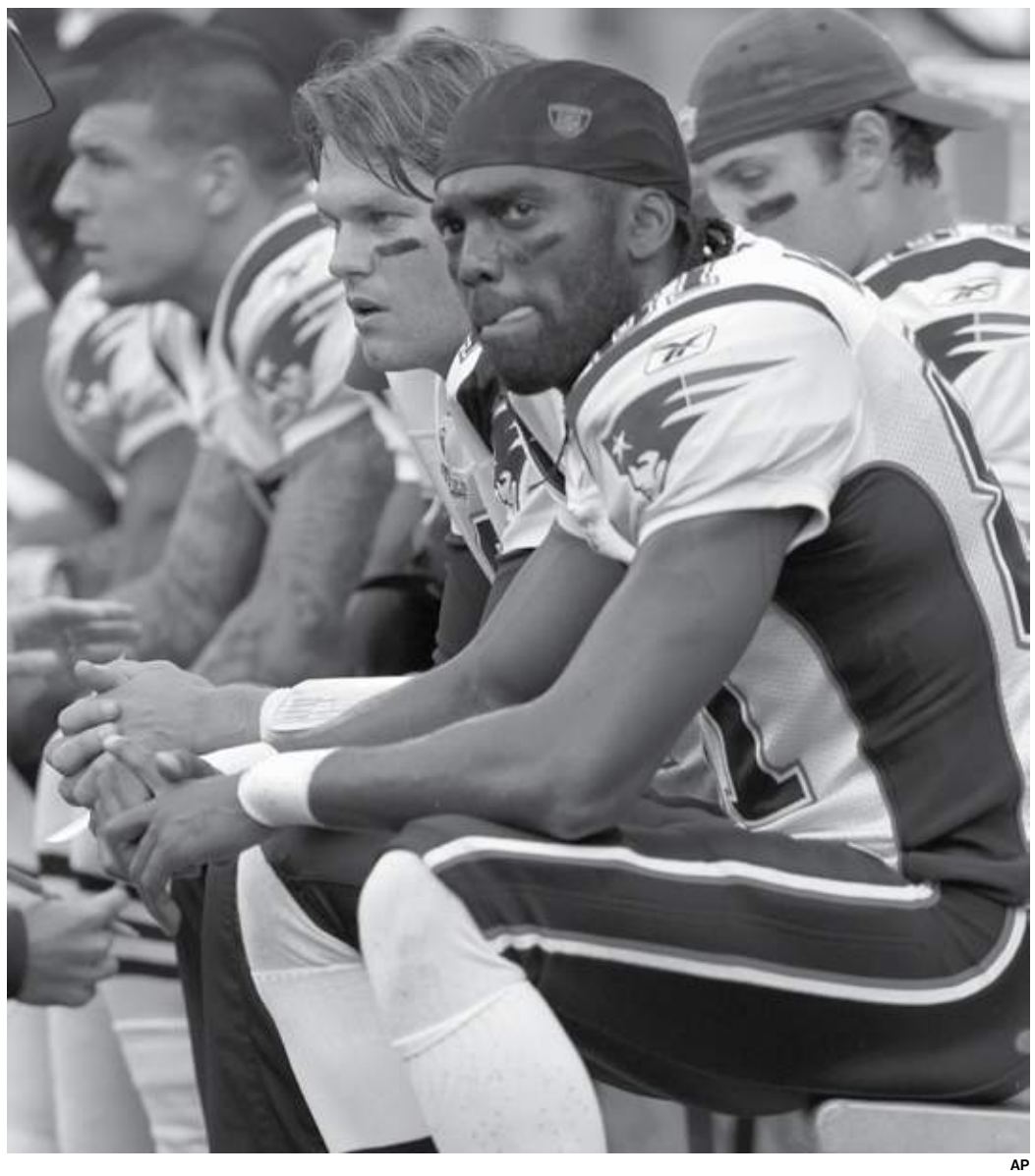
The drama will be high around here all month. Check out Minnesota's last two games in October: at rival Green Bay, and then at New England.

"In this business, there are complex and often difficult decisions, but it is my responsibility to make them based on what I feel is best for our football team, in both the short term and long term," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to have coached Randy Moss and aside from facing him as an opponent, I wish him the very best for the remainder of his Hall of Fame career."

The Vikings didn't practice on Wednesday. Moss is expected to join the team on Thursday and talk with reporters afterward.

He will move from catching passes from Tom Brady to Favre, who desperately needed a downfield threat after Pro Bowl receiver Sidney Rice had hip surgery in August. Struggling Bernard Berrian has been a nonfactor, and Percy Harvin—when healthy—is better suited for the slot position.

"This is an exciting move; I think everybody feels that in the locker room," Favre said on the team's website. "It's rare you get to play with a future Hall of Famer and get to appreciate their talents up close. Randy Moss is a great player and his career speaks for itself. I've admired him from a distance for a long time, and you can't help but be impressed by the guy."



AP

In this Sept. 12, 2010, photo, New England Patriots wide receiver Randy Moss, right, and quarterback Tom Brady, second from right, sit on the bench in the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Foxborough, Mass.

Moss spent his first seven seasons in Minnesota, where he set all kinds of records and became one of the most exciting playmakers in the league. He burned Favre's Packers often, racking up 9,142 yards and 90 touchdowns during his first stint with Minnesota and fueling a run to NFC title game appearances following the 1998 and 2000 seasons.

Tired of his attitude and wary of a hamstring injury that hampered him in the 2004 season, the Vikings traded Moss to Oakland in 2005. He wore out his welcome there and the Raiders sent him to New England in 2007. Favre was frustrated at the time the Packers didn't land Moss; they discussed a trade with Oakland.

Childress, though, denied on Wednesday that Favre lobbied for this move. The coach said owner Zygi Wilf gave his blessing on Monday.

"I don't think any of us thought this guy was going to be available," Childress said.

The Vikings in exchange will give the Patriots their third-round draft pick in 2011 and get a seventh-rounder from New England in 2012, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations, speaking on condition of anonymity because the teams did not disclose terms of the deal.

The entertaining style of football that Moss brought with him started a string of sellouts at the Metrodome that is still going 13 years later. His jersey can still be seen regularly on the backs of fans, six years after his departure.

His first stint in Minnesota was anything but smooth, though.

There was the time he bumped a traffic cop with his car in downtown Minneapolis, left the field early from a game in Washington and several other occasions where he was fined or admonished for his antics or behavior.

Childress said he has a clean slate in Minnesota.

"I'm just satisfied to judge him, not backward, but judge him going forward and what he does with us here," he said.

Childress insisted the acquisition of Moss isn't a sign that Rice's recovery has slowed. Rice said recently he hopes to be off his crutches next week.

The Vikings began the year with championship aspirations after reaching the NFC title game in January. But they have lost two of their first three and Favre's passing game has struggled to get off the ground. The Vikings talked last month about acquiring another disgruntled, talented wide receiver in Vincent Jackson, but the San Diego Chargers chose to keep him.

"We've just been missing something, and I think he can give us another threat down the field," running back Adrian Peterson said on the team's website.

Moss is in the final season of a three-year, $27 million contract and has said several times that he expected 2010 to be his last season with the Patriots. He did not have a catch in a 41-14 win over Miami on Monday night, for the first time since 2006.

Last month, Moss lamented his lack of a contract extension and said he felt unwanted. He backtracked a bit days later, saying he didn't want Patriots fans, players, coaches or officials to have "a sour taste in their mouths" about him.

His agent, Joel Segal, said the Vikings have not contacted him about a long-term deal, so Moss joins a long list of prominent Vikings in the final year of their contracts including Rice and Favre.

Jets' Revis: Moss put 'foot on brake' in Week 2

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Darrelle Revis is ready to play, and you can bet Randy Moss hopes the Jets cornerback is out there defending him Monday night.

Revis added another chapter to their personal rivalry Wednesday, saying Moss—now with the Minnesota Vikings—eased up in the second half of New England's 28-14 loss to New York three weeks ago.

"He came out full force, early in the game," Revis said. "In the second half, you could tell he was kind of like putting his foot on the brake. But everybody knows that's Randy: sometimes he plays 100 percent, sometimes he doesn't."

Revis was limited at practice Wednesday, but hopes to play after missing the last 2 1/2 games with a strained left hamstring. He was injured defending Moss on a touchdown catch late in the first half of the game in Week 2.

"You can see the effort," Revis said. "Playing football, you can see the body language and the effort of people when they're out there playing, if a guy's going hard or if a guy's hesitant."

Moss, traded by New England on Wednesday, was held without a catch in the second half while being defended mostly by Antonio Cromartie. Revis thinks Moss' lack of effort was the main reason for that blanking.

"That's just the way football is," Revis said. "You can see the truth comes out. I don't know if it was frustration of him not getting the ball a lot or whatever, but you can see it."

Revis referred to Moss as a "slouch" while playing a word-association game on the NFL Network in January. Moss playfully fired back during an interview with ESPN before the Patriots played the Jets, saying: "I don't really get into the trash talking, but if what he called me was a 'slouch,' then I guess the 'slouch' will be there to see you on Sunday."

Whether the matchup even happens Monday night remains to be seen, given Revis' health. He said he felt great—"no pulls or anything today"—after practice, but reiterated that he wants to be 100 percent healthy before playing again.

Peppers: Panthers tried to make me look bad

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Julius Peppers described his offseason departure from Carolina as "a little sour" on Wednesday, claiming the Panthers tried to paint him in a bad light after deciding to let him leave in free agency.

In a conference call with reporters ahead of Peppers' return to Charlotte on Sunday with the Chicago Bears, the five-time Pro Bowl defensive end said he was under the impression the Panthers decided to "do away with anybody who is making a significant amount of money" as part of a roster overhaul that's produced the NFL's youngest team.

"That's a business decision. I can understand and respect that," the 30-year-old Peppers said. "The problem that I had was they tried to turn the tables and make it look like I wanted out no matter what. Really, I didn't have the option to stay. It was never offered to stay."

"So when I say it ended a little sour, I felt like it could have been a little more respectful. At least a phone call to say, 'It's been good. We're going in a different direction. We're going to let you go.' They couldn't even give me that."

Peppers also disputed Panthers general manager Marty Hurney's earlier claims that they twice tried to make him the NFL's highest-paid defensive player. Peppers said that happened only once, after the 2007 season, a deal he rejected.

Hurney didn't return a message seeking comment, releasing only a short statement that didn't address Peppers' criticism.

"Julius gave us eight great years and we appreciate everything he did for us," Hurney said.

The Panthers and Peppers were locked in a lengthy contract dispute that included his pleas to allow him to leave in free agency after the 2008 season The Panthers refused and used the restrictive franchise tag, requiring a mammoth one-year deal that paid Peppers $18.2 million last season.

The Panthers could have used the franchise tag again this season, but at the cost of at least $20.1 million. The Panthers declined and let the 6-foot-7 Peppers, the franchise's career leader with 81 sacks, leave without compensation.

The former No. 2 overall pick in the 2002 draft signed a six-year, $91.5 million deal with the Bears in March. While he said he's happy in Chicago—he has two sacks, two forced fumbles and a blocked field goal for the Bears (3-1)—he's puzzled with how things ended in Charlotte.

"I was kind of surprised because I was expecting to hear something from them," Peppers said. "I didn't understand what was going on. But as the weeks and the months went by, I started getting the picture of the direction they were going in and I knew I wasn't a part of it."

Now Peppers, a Bailey, N.C., native who starred in college in North Carolina, will return home to play the struggling Panthers (0-4) for the first time on Sunday. After the two years of rocky contract negotiations, Peppers said he has "no idea" how he'll be received by fans.

Wade: Leg still sore, and he will travel anyway

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade was off the court, perfecting the art of taking scoop shots from underneath a side basket and getting them to fall through the net without touching the rim.

That'll be the extent of his basketball work for the next week or two.

Wade's ailing right hamstring was no better on Wednesday, one day after his preseason debut was cut short following a stint that lasted a mere 3 minutes, 17 seconds. Sore when he went to bed after the game, sore when he got up Wednesday morning, sore as the day went along.

"Today is the first day of the road to recovery," Wade said as his teammates finished practice.

He walked stiffly Wednesday, but was on his feet for an extended period of time, which some in the gym took as a good sign. There's still no clear indication how much time Wade will miss—coach Erik Spoelstra said he'll be re-evaulated in a week, Wade is bracing to miss up to two weeks, LeBron James said it might be a few weeks before quickly adding "if less."

Spoelstra said he thought Wade would receive an MRI; Wade said no test was scheduled. The only thing everyone is on the same page on is perhaps the most important thing: If an injury is going to strike, it may as well happen now before the grind of the 82-game season—and, the Heat hope, well beyond—finally begins.

"They assembled the team the right way," James said. "The front office and coach Spo and Pat (Riley, the Heat president), they assembled the team the right way for the long haul. Right now, we've got a guy out, a great player that's out right now and probably be out for a few weeks, if less. And we've got guys who can step up."

Wade got hurt while trying to defend Detroit's Richard Hamilton and running around a screen set by the Pistons' Ben Wallace. As Wade ran toward the foul line from the low post, he grabbed the hamstring, motioned to the bench, then reached again for the back of his leg with his right hand.

When the ball came his way after a deflection off Tayshaun Prince's foot, Wade wouldn't stop reaching for the leg. He scooped up the loose ball with his left hand and—in one motion—tried throwing a 45-foot pass to James heading down the other end in transition, still tugging at his hamstring with the right. The ball went out of bounds moments later, and Wade limped to the bench.

"Hopefully it's not too bad," Spoelstra said. "Right now, we'll treat it, hoping it responds quicker."

Wade will travel with the Heat later this week for preseason games at Kansas City (against Oklahoma City) and San Antonio this weekend, but will not play.

"I know the offense, I know the defense and I know these guys," Wade said. "Me fitting in, it won't be a problem at all. ... We're still building something here, off the court as well as on the court. We're getting to know everybody and I'm still a teacher. I can teach these guys and get my therapy while I'm there, so I wouldn't even think about not traveling."

Gasol savors Barcelona homecoming with Lakers

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Pau Gasol is back in Spain for a third time with an NBA team. This time, he's in a Lakers jersey as an NBA champion.

Gasol will be the main attraction when the Lakers play his former Spanish club Barcelona in an exhibition game Thursday at the Palau Sant Jordi.

It's a special homecoming for the 7-foot center, who joined Barcelona when he was 16 and helped the club win two Spanish league titles. Gasol left to play for the Memphis Grizzlies in 2001.

Gasol says "without a doubt it is a dream ... that has now become a reality."

More than 7,000 fans, mainly school children, packed a local arena to watch Gasol and the Lakers practice. Cheers erupted with each made layup, but it was Gasol's emphatic dunks that drew the biggest applause.

"I see the excitement of the people who are proud and happy for us to be here," Gasol said.

He returned to Spain with the Grizzlies for 2003 exhibition games in Barcelona and the 2007 games in Madrid and Malaga. He has since won two NBA championships with the Lakers.

With Lakers superstar and NBA finals MVP Kobe Bryant still recovering from knee surgery, Gasol is expected to play a more promiment role on the court.

Bryant played only 6 minutes and went scoreless in a loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday in London. That disappointed many of the British fans, who chanted "Kobe, Kobe, Kobe" during the second half.

Bryant is expected to see limited action against Barcelona as well, but said he's more than happy to cede the spotlight to Gasol. Gasol had an off night in London, scoring only 7 points in 22 minutes in the 111-92 loss.

"I am looking forward to this game and to this challenge. But if anything, I am really, really excited for Pau," Bryant said. "It must be an amazing experience for him to come back to where it all started for him, as a two-time NBA champion and one of the greatest players in the world. I just want to sit back and watch him have a great time."

Coach Phil Jackson said he also expects Gasol to become more of a leader on the court, at least until Bryant has fully recovered.

"Right now, he's going to have to carry the team when Kobe's not functioning 100 percent," Jackson said. "So he's the guy who'll have to take a leadership role."

NBA Commissioner David Stern said Gasol's success highlights the impact of foreign players on the league.

"To have the opportunity for a player like Pau to go back, and his brother Marc played (for Barcelona) as well, it's just been great for our league," Stern said. "We're delighted to go, in effect, with Pau, because the fans love him there. He really has changed the appetite for basketball enormously in Catalunya and Barcelona."

Gasol has acted a bit as a tour guide, pointing out his home and other sights to his teammates on the bus ride to practice.

Jackson noted a cultural difference between Spanish and American eating habits. He joked that he had told Gasol the whole team would show up at his house at 7:30 p.m., but because "he doesn't eat dinner till 10, we can just have some hors d'oeuvres."

Barcelona, the reigning European champion, is eager to show it can compete with the NBA's best.

Barcelona guard Juan Carlos Navarro, a close friend of Gasol, said the team also wants to avenge a 2008 preseason loss against the Lakers in Los Angeles.

"This time they are playing against the European champs," the former Memphis guard said. "I already told Pau, half joking and half not, that we would surely win."

Barcelona has the advantage of starting its regular season, while the Lakers are still trying to shake off the rust from the offseason.

And for Gasol, there are some emotional difficulties to overcome as well.

"It will be difficult for me because I am not accustomed to playing against Barcelona, because it is the team I grew up on," he said. "It awakens a lot of emotions and it will be a very special game."

NMA to start cross country series Saturday

The Northern Marianas Athletics will kick off the All Schools Cross Country series this Saturday at the Airport Field.

The first of a series of cross-country races will feature students in the U8, U10, U12, U14, and U18 age groups. Registration starts at 3:30pm, while races will begin at 4pm.

No entrance fees will be charged during the series and NMA will be giving trophies and medals to the top individual finishers/schools in various age groups.

There will be three series of cross country races this month and the event will culminate with the 2010 All Schools Cross Country Championship.

For more information, contact NMA developmental coach Elias Rangamar at eli_rang@yahoo.com ***(PR)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Whispering Palms' Gabrielle Race nears the finish line during last year's cross country race at the CPA Field.

Voyagers, Fotten Palau lead in 8-ball league

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's IT&E Voyagers crushed the Pirates, 6-1, to protect its lead in Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after last Tuesday's games at Jonny's Bar.

The home team Voyagers won all five singles matches and converted two tiebreakers in the process. After losing a tiebreaker in the first doubles match, the Voyagers swept the final doubles match.

The IT&E Voyagers now have a 30-12 record and hold a slim one-rack advantage over Jonny's Home Boyz (29-13). The Docomo Hustlers (27-15) and Buddies Bar & Grill's IT&E Incredibles (26-16) are still in third and fourth places, respectively. All four teams make up the Agingan division.

USSP's Fotten Palau leads the six-member Obyan division with its 24-18 record. Wild Bill's Shark Attack is seated second, followed by the D'Pirates Bar & Grills Who-Oah! (17-25) and VFW's Toro-Kee-Ree (16-26).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the USSP Fotten Palau pose for a group photo after beating Who-Oah! in the Obyan division of the Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

One notable performance in the Agingan division came from Hustler's Jerry Soriano, who ran the rack four times this week. Toro-Kee-Ree's Jimmy Wang and Shark Attack's Nong Detdong each ran the rack once in the Obyan division. The Pirates' Franklin C. Palacios sank the eight ball on the break once in the Obyan division, too.

Hustlers 4, Toyo-Kee-Ree 3

At VFW, the visiting Hustlers started well and won three of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker, for the advantage heading into the final two double matches. The Hustlers then swept the first double match to secure the team victory.

Shark Attack 4, Turtles 3

At USSP, visiting Shark Attack fell behind early and won only two of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker, but regrouped to take both doubles matches, one by tiebreaker, for the victory.

Fotten Palau 5, Who-Oah! 2

At D' Pirates, visiting Fotten Palau won the first four of the five singles matches, three by tiebreaker, to make light work of home team Who-Oah! Fotten Palau went on to add a doubles match tiebreaker win to its total.

Home Boyz 5, Incredibles 2

At Buddies, the visiting Home Boyz won three of the five singles matches, one by tiebreaker, and then swept both double matches for the victory.

AKIMARU

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(1:36.81) anew.

In the 100m and 50m freestyle, and 200m individual medley, Akimaru's times earned AA marks. The SSC bet submitted 33.92 seconds in the 50m freestyle, 3:06.09 in the 200m IM, and 1:16.33 in the 100m freestyle. Akimaru also joined the 200m breaststroke race, raced against swimmers in the 11 to 12 age group, and received a BB time after tallying 3:34.56.

"Kento Akimaru continued to be a strong contender in his age group, swimming each of his events at A to AAA times except the 200 breaststroke which has no time standard for his age group," said Lisa Kimball, one of the SSC coaches.

Kimball also noted Lennosuke Suzuki's permance.

" Lennosuke Suzuki dropped 45 seconds in his 50m breaststroke (59.97 seconds) qualifying him for the Guam A Championship Meet in May. He also dropped time to qualify for the Guam Championship Meet in the 50 backstroke and is seconds away from qualifying for the meet in the 50 and 100 freestyle. With six months of practice and meets until the Guam Championship, he is sure to drop more times and qualify in more events," Kimball added.

"All of our returning swimmers had substantial drops in times, while new swimmers preformed very well and enjoyed their first meet. They are all looking forward to more meets and further improvement. No that they have times in the events we will watch their times drop in the succeeding tournaments," Kimball said.

ANDERSEN

From Page 36

leagues to form their selection or send their champion team for a possible three to four-team tournament," Rangamar said.

Rangamar is excited about having Andersen Bombers coming over and challenging local teams.

"We can expect a high-level competition as some of Andersen players used to play college ball. Having a tough caliber squad like the Andersen men's team will give us the kind of competition we need to elevate the level of play here," Rangamar added.

Andersen besides competing in local leagues on Guam is also joining tournaments in Korea and Japan.

In November last year, Andersen won the Yokota Far East Warrior Basketball Classic held at the Yokota Air Base in Japan after posting a 6-1 record.

On Saipan, Anderson hopes to play on weekends. The suggested dates are Oct. 15 to 17, 22 to 24, or 29 to 31.

"Most of our team members have never traveled to the beautiful island of Saipan and are excited about the games plus the wonderful sites and cultural experiences the island has to offer," Barnes wrote in his letter to BANMI officials.

Meanwhile, Rangamar said Andersen also has a women's team and BANMI is hoping that the squad will also visit Saipan and play against the Commonwealth's cage belles.

ROLLERS

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lights will go off and the rest of the public will not have access to the lights on the court.

CUC had to turn off the lights at the Garapan court, as it is one of the government-ran facilities affected by the shutdown. Most of the government sports facilities were closed last week, but it was only last Tuesday that the lights at the Garapan court were turned off.

At that time, Rollers players were having their regular practice and Diaz's wards had to end their drills early.

"The U16 kids just finished up their practice and ran down Beach Road to cool down. By the time they got back all the lights were off and it looked like nobody was here. Then we had to cancel our U18 practice and go home since it was too dark. The whole thing was frustrating for a lot of players because nobody knew when we would get to play again," U18 Rollers player Erik Cepeda said.

The next day, although the QQ Cup was rained out, league officials were notified by CUC that the lights on the court were not going to be turned on.

With the Garapan court without lights for two days, Rollers and QQ league officials had to make a move.

"With the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium still closed and the Rotary U15 and U18 seasons on hold as a result, it would be very difficult to provide an acceptable explanation to all of my kids about why we can't even have practice at public courts," Diaz said.

The Rollers' U12, U14, U16 and U18 divisions practice from 4pm to about 9pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while Saturday sessions are from 10am to 6pm. The QQ caging schedules regular season games from 6pm to 10pm on Wednesdays and Fridays with Mondays set aside for make-up games under the same hours of operation.

Before the shutdown, Rollers and QQ league used the Garapan court without paying utility fees. Diaz said now they will have to go straight to CUC to pay the monthly utility bill.

ESSENTIAL

From Page 36

ting fatter because CUC is doing its job.

In the classic English movie "If", school boy Malcolm McDowell causes problems and authorities punish him by forcing to stand under ice cold showers. But he comes to relish them instead of hating them. While the bosses think they are making him suffer, he is actually enjoying himself. The authorities have no control over his mind.

Just as the New England Patriots have no control over the brain of Randy Moss. Why he would want to leave the Patriots during what could be a Super Bowl run, I have no idea. But the NFL just got a whole lot more interesting, starting with Tuesday Morning Football when the Yikes play the Yets and Moss goes to Revis Island … again. Moss will become the first player to play in back to back Tuesday Morning games (he thinks it's Monday Night). And then three weeks later, it's Vikings vs. Patriots. If I could afford a calendar, I would circle that date.

If you predicted the Kansas City Chiefs would be the last undefeated team in the NFL, prove it. Tony Satur need not apply.

This just in: the Miami Dolphins special teams coach was put on the non-essential list.

Truth is, these essential/non-essential lists are no fun for anyone as they naturally add stress to an already stressed out community. Doing yoga or going to the beach may be nice, for a while, but they do not put food in children's stomachs or shoes on their feet. Those things belong on the essential list.

I hope that the shutdown will not continue much longer as I empathize with those suffering financially. I also empathize with those kids prohibited from playing on fields and courts through no fault of their own.

Saipan Radar Run hits road tomorrow

The 2010 Saipan Radar Run will kick off tomorrow with race organizer Brad Ruszala hoping to draw at least 50 runners for the inaugural event.

"This is one of the new events we will be organizing to keep our community busy. I have observed in the past years that after XTERRA and Tagaman, we don't have a lot of races to follow, so we need to step up and organize one. Events like this help fight diabetes and other diseases and promote healthy living," Ruzsala said.

The race will start and end at Paupau Beach and as the name of the event suggests, runners will head up to the famous Saipan Radar for the 4.7-mile run. Registration is at 6am, while race will begin at 7am. Entrance fee is $20 and $10 for students and military personnel.

The top male and female runners will receive $100 each while $100 worth ($25 each) of gift certificates from The Athlete's Foot and All-Star Sporting Goods will also be awarded to the first placers in the men's, women's and youth divisions. The Top 3 finishers in the youth division will also get gift certificates from National Office Supply.

Finishers shirts will be handed out to participants, who can also get other perks from race sponsors.

The Radar Run is supported by Marianas Visitors Authority, Mayor of Saipan, Triple J Super Fresh Market, Foremost, POWERade, IT&E, XTERRA Saipan, Tagaman,Taga Inc., Gold's Gym, Brabu Pharmacy, The Athlete's Foot, All-Star Sporting Goods, Michelob Ultra, Digital Motion, Seafix, Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Ayuda Network, Island Apparel, Saipan Tribune, National Office Supply, 103.9 FM KZMI, Top Notch, and MEGAbyte.

"I'm really excited about the race. All of our sponsors have come together to make this event really special and I couldn't be any happier," Ruszala said. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Runners are seen here heading out of the PauPau Beach parking lot, which will be the start and finish line for tomorrow's 2010 Saipan Radar Run.

Masters basketball meeting Oct. 14

The Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands will be holding a meeting on Oct. 14 to discuss the opening of the MBFNMI 40A and 45A Men's League that will kick off on October 23.

The meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. League organizers are requesting representatives of 11 confirmed teams to attend the meeting. MBFNMI is opening the league to only 14 squads.

Team representatives will be given MBFNMI logo patches, which must be attached on the top left shoulder of all uniforms.

Besides the uniform requirement, teams should also pay the $350 entrance fee and submit players' proof of age eligibility. Registration fee is payable on installment basis with the first payment set at $200 and should be paid on or before Oct. 14. The remaining $150 must be paid in the second week of the league.

Only players in above 40 and 45 age groups will be allowed to play in the league. Players must submit waiver forms and pay the non-refundable $5 membership fee. Head coaches and assistant coaches must also be MBFNMI registered members.

Games in the masters league will be played every Saturday and Sunday only. FIBA rules will be implemented with a few modified ground rules that will be discussed in details at the October 14 meeting.

For more information, contact MBFNMI via e-mail at mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

Eagles sweep regular season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy's varsity team finished the regular season of the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League unscathed to get the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs.

The Eagles, who also topped last season's regular season with their 12-2 record, this time posted a perfect 10-0 mark, capping their undefeated mark with a straight set win over Marianas Baptist Academy last week.

In the entire 10 games in the double round-robin regular season, GCA dropped only one set.

"The high school team played well this season. One factor is because they came together as a team early in the season. They have worked hard and played as a team," said Becky Robles, who co-coaches the defending champions with husband Mark.

"I look forward to some exciting volleyball games during the playoffs. The level of competition rises and each individual player and team has improved over the course of the season. We can't let our guard down against any team," Robles said.

In the playoffs, GCA is hoping to extend its domination in the league, as it guns for its seventh consecutive varsity championship. The Eagles won their sixth straight title last season after beating the MBA Stormz in the finals, 25-19, 25-15.

A Grace Christian Academy player goes for a spike during their game against Calvary Christian Academy in the second round of the regular season of the COPSSA varsity volleyball league last month at the GCA court in Navy Hill.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Besides MBA and GCA, four other teams—Mt. Carmel School, Calvary Christian Academy, and Saipan International School A and B—are entered in the varsity division.

The playoff round of the varsity division is scheduled for Oct. 25, as some teams have yet to complete their regular season assignments. Venue has yet to be decided due to the closure of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

" In light of the government shutdown, no venue has been confirmed at this time. We still have a few weeks before the start of the playoffs for both divisions so hopefully the shutdown will end and the games will carry on as scheduled," Robles added.

The varsity division playoffs will begin a week earlier than the varsity or on Oct. 18.

So far only the records of Seventh Day Adventists, SIS B, and Whispering Palms were made available for release, as other teams are trying to finish the regular season next week.

SDA and SIS B are done for the regular season with their 9-7 and 0-16 records, respectively, while Whispering Palms has the best record among the three teams with its 11-4 slate. Whispering Palms will close out the regular season with a make-up game against SIS A on Oct. 14.

Black Stallions enjoy Masters lead

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The TDI Black Stallions now hold a comfortable 10-game lead in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's Masters division standings after a dominating 14-3 home victory over Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's D'Companeros last week at Buddies Bar & Grill.

The Black Stallions, who hold a 108-45 record, are beginning to pull away from second placer Oleai Erap Snipers (98-55), while both D'Pirates Bar & Grill's M-Destroyers and the VFW Angry Dragons are tied for third with identical 74-79 marks.

Weekly notables include a 160 High-In by the M-Destroyers' Leo Lindo and a 151 High-Out by the Black Stallions' Jun Olita.

Olita is also ranked first in the individual standings with a weighted average of 71.82. Pam Ybanez (69.53), Willy Cuesta (64.20), Jayson John (62.17), Jun Lapeciros (61.78), Junnie Guevarra (61.56), Leo Lindo (61.12), Noel Saluta (61.12), Romano Quindoza (60.78), and Anie Legaspi (60.14) rounded out the Top 10.

Angry Dragons 9, M-Destroyers 8

M-Destroyers won three of the four cricket games, but the Angry Dragons answered and swept both partners 501 matches. After both teams won a pair of sniper matches, the Angry Dragons swept both wild cricket games, but the Destroyers won three of the four singles 301 matches to tie it back up going into the final team 1001 cherry game, where the Angry Dragons came out on top.

Erap Snipers 9, Just 4 Fun 8

After the Erap Snipers won three of the four cricket matches and Just 4 Fun swept both partners 501 games, the former took three of four snipers matches. Just 4 Fun answered by winning three of the four singles 301 matches after both teams won a game of wild cricket, but the Erap Snipers took the final team 1010 cherry match for the win.

Bull Shooters 12, Red Horse 5

The Bull Shooters won three of the four cricket matches for the early lead. Then both teams won a partners 501 game, but the Bull Shooters swept all four sniper matches and a wild cricket game for the automatic win.

Black Stallions 14, D'Companeros 4

The Black Stallions quickly secured the automatic victory after winning three of the four cricket matches, both partners 501 games, and all four sniper matches. They went on to sweep both wild cricket games and won three of the four singles 301 matches, while the D'Companeros took the final team 1001 cherry game.

DPW *Troubleshooters edge league-leading* CUC

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Works' Troubleshooters pulled off an 8-7 win over the league-leading CUC Power Plant during their game in the 2010 Bud Light Lime Inter-Government Dart League last week at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill.

Both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches and the game remained tied after the Troubleshooters swept both wild cricket games before CUC answered and took both partners Burma Half-It contests. Then the Troubleshooters swept both partners 501 games and secured the automatic victory after winning a pair of cricket matches. CUC won the final team 1001 match.

Despite the loss, CUC Power Plant, with its 95-40 record is still in front of AG's Piligro, which holds an 83-37 mark. DPW's Troubleshooters improved their record to 77-58 for third place.

NMC-PROA 8, PSS South Side 7

At Gaia's, PSS and NMC won a pair of singles 301 matches, a game of wild cricket and a partners Burma Half-It contest before the former swept both partners 501 games. NMC clinched the automatic victory after winning a pair of cricket matches, while South Side took the final team 1001 game.

DYS Atdit 9, PSS Na'Gupu 6

At Naked Fish, both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches and a game of wild cricket before Na'Gupu swept both partners Burma Half-It games for the lead. Na'Gupu won three of the four cricket matches to seal the automatic victory. Atdit's Julian Camacho won five of his six matches.

Halladay pitches 1st playoff no-hitter since '56
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Akimaru stands out for SSC

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru does stretching drills before the race during last Saturday's swim meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru made a mark in the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan-organized meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The 9-year-old Akimaru won five events in the 9 to 10 age group and was runner-up in two others. To top it all, his times in the 50m and 100m breaststroke races received an AAA mark in the standard grading system.

The grading system is done to keep track of the personal progress of a swimmer. Triple A is the highest mark or equals the national championship qualifying time. AA grade is about district standard, A is about county standard, B is good club swimmer standard, and C is all of the rest. A table with corresponding times and ages of swimmers is used for the grading system.

Akimura timed in at 43.24 seconds in the 50m breaststroke to beat Tsunami Saipan's Ryosei Toda (44.80 seconds), Yuuki Nishida (57.64 seconds), and teammate Joshua Tenorio (1:20.73) In the 100m breaststroke, Akimaru clocked in at 1:36.77, downing Toda

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Andersen cage team to challenge Saipan players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Andersen Air Force Base men's basketball team hopes to play here and challenge Saipan teams in a series of exhibition matches later this month.

In a letter to Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar and secretary general Michael White, Base Athletic Director and men's head basketball coach Gerrard Barnes said his team looks forward to playing on Saipan, as his wards need training and quality competition to prepare for the upcoming Military Pacific Regional tournament season, which will begin next month.

Rangamar has yet to respond do Barnes letter, but said they are willing to organize exhibition games for the visiting team from Guam.

"I will coordinate with coach Rufino Aguon and inform him about the need to have the CNMI National Team members back and play against Andersen. We will also coordinate with other

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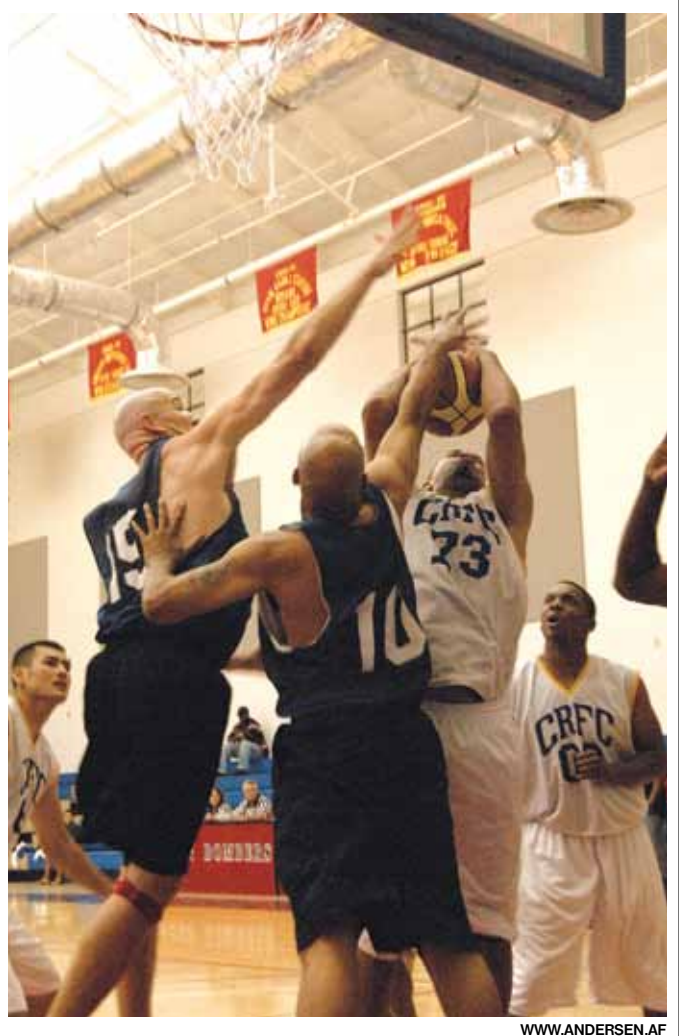

WWW.ANDERSEN.AF
An Andersen Base Stars player goes up for a shot against the Budweiser Kings during the Andersen Summer Slam at the Coral Reef Fitness Center in Guam. Andersen's men's varsity team is hoping to play against Saipan teams this month.

Rollers, QQ caging foot utility bill at Garapan court

Rollers Basketball Club Coach Joe Diaz, second from left, observes as his U12 division players go over fundamental drills. Practice sessions resumed yesterday at the Garapan Basketball Court after being cancelled early on Tuesday when CUC turned off the lights.
WALTER SUTHERLAND

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

With the government shutdown still in effect, a basketball club and league have to shell out money from their own pockets just to continue playing at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Joe Diaz of the Rollers Basketball Club and QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup officials agreed to pay a flat $41 monthly utility rate to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp, which will turn on the lights at the Garapan Basketball Court for the use of the Rollers and QQ caging only.

Once the practices or the QQ Cup games are finished, the

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Essential business

Did Job have a job? Or was he on the non-essential list?

The biblical story of Job is as relevant in today's world as it was throughout the past. Just when you think you have it bad, someone has it worse.

You can curse the darkness or grab a candle. At least we haven't had any typhoons lately or power problems. Knock on tangangtangan.

Back in the days of daily power outages, my wife got mad and complained profusely. If the lights went out, I just did yoga. Over time, I didn't mind the outages and actually enjoyed them, especially since I got to save money at the same time. Imagine that, doing yoga while saving money. And some people think the power problems were bad. I enjoyed them (but not at work). I was also cleaner because I took two or three cold showers a day.

Now that the power is on reliably, I have stopped doing yoga and as a result have swelled like the national deficit. Imagine that, get-

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2